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Friday, March 12, 2004

EC's East Parallel Closed for the Summer

By Ray C. He
STAFF REPORTER

This summer, the east parallel of East Campus will be closed for renovations. Those renovations include the replacement of asbestos tiles and bathroom flooring, possible replacement of carpeting, and limited painting, said Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson.

The purpose of the summer renovations is to improve conditions at EC for the short term until a complete renewal is possible.

"In the long term, a lot of the systems in East Campus, a lot of the buildings need full renovations," Nilsson said. "I cannot even begin to guess when that will happen," but "it does need to happen in five, ten years," she said.

Asbestos tiles to be replaced

"The reason we're closing down the whole east parallel is to do asbestos abatement," Nilsson said.

Currently, the asbestos used in the tiling at East Campus is "not a problem," Nilsson said. "There is nowhere in East Campus where students are in danger because of asbestos... If it's not airborne, it's not dangerous at all."

The tiles are being replaced because they are cracked and old, Nilsson said.

"We've had a few occasions when we noticed students have left and we've noticed there's been a problem, we've closed the room, and fixed it."

Murals preserved

Painting plans generated concern amongst EC residents regarding the preservation of the artwork and the atmosphere of the dorm.

"The biggest concerns EC has are we don't want to see the murals destroyed, we don't want to see rooms with excellent paint jobs or murals painted over, and we don't want to see any of our hall property



Uriel P. Klieger '04 and Catherine W. Chang '04 study in a lounge in East Campus. The east parallel of the dormitory will be closed over the summer for renovations.

broken or stolen," said Emily E. Cofer '04, outgoing vice president of East Campus.

The executive committee of EC has met with Nilsson and the housing office to work out these issues.

"Our plan is not to paint over the murals, it's to paint around the murals," Nilsson said. "We'll cut around it, we square it off and paint the other areas."

The renovations will only paint over murals that residents specify. "We've also said to the house, please look over your murals. There may be some that people have started and haven't finished, and there may be some that you feel aren't part of the culture," she said.

Additionally, "if there are any murals that the house government feels are incomplete or damaged,

we'll paint over them," she said.

The housing office will not repaint the center of fifth east, known as "Black Bemis," which is completely black. "Our plan is not to paint Black Bemis institute white," she said. "If there are areas they want painted, we'd be happy to talk to them about it."

"They're making an awesome effort to make sure that our art concerns are being addressed and handled well," Cofer said.

In addition to allowing houses to select the murals that will be kept, the housing office is deferring the decision on keeping carpet or replacing it with tiles to the EC house government, according to Nilsson.

"We can take out the carpet and put new [vinyl tetrachloride] tile

down if they prefer to have tiles," Nilsson said. "It's easier to maintain hallways that aren't carpeted," but the housing office is working with the floors to determine preferences.

Students can stay in west parallel

East parallel students staying on campus over the summer will be allowed to stay in the west parallel, rather than be forced to stay in another dormitory, Nilsson said. They will be able to move back into their rooms in the east parallel when renovations there are complete, she said.

To accommodate the summer housing students, summer programs that have traditionally been in EC,

EC, Page 18

Many Freshmen Become First-Year Sophomores

By Kelley Rivoire

Ninety-three of the 145 eligible freshmen chose to declare sophomore standing this year, said Julie B. Norman, associate dean of Academic Resources and Programming.

In the years previous to 2003, about 15–18 students declared sophomore standing each year. Last year, the first year in which second semester freshmen were on grades, 121 freshmen accepted sophomore standing.

The only current difference between the grading systems for second semester freshmen and for sophomores is that a failed class will not appear on the transcript of a second semester freshman, whereas it will appear on the transcript for a sophomore. Prior to last year, second semester freshmen were still on Pass/No Record.

Sophomore standing enables

first-year students who have sufficient credit and who took a communications intensive class first semester to choose a major, receive an advisor in that major, and not have a credit limit.

Freshmen avoid credit limit

For many freshman, accepting sophomore standing is a way to avoid the 57-unit credit limit imposed on freshmen in the spring semester.

Aron P. Walker '07 said he took sophomore standing in Course XII because he "wanted to break the credit limit." This was the "only incentive as far as I could tell," he said.

Timothy G. Abbott '07, who is taking 102 units this semester, declared sophomore standing because he "had to get out of the credit limit."

Standing, Page 14



Demonstrators gather outside the Massachusetts Statehouse on Beacon Hill Thursday afternoon while the legislature debates a proposed state constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages. See page 12 for more photos of the event.



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Vivek Rao critiques steroids in Major League Baseball.

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Yong-yi Zhu critiques steroids in Major League Baseball.

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WORLD & NATION

Former Congressional Aide Charged With Aiding Iraq

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Federal prosecutors charged a former congressional aide on Thursday with working with the Iraqi intelligence service before the war. Investigators said she had tried to influence U.S. policy toward Iraq by presenting herself as an intermediary to a highly placed relative, Andrew H. Card Jr., the White House chief of staff.

The woman, Susan P. Lindauer, 40, was arrested Thursday morning by federal agents at her home in Takoma Park, Md., outside Washington. In New York, federal prosecutors unsealed an indictment that said she had met repeatedly with representatives of the Iraqi intelligence service starting in 1999 and that she had traveled to Baghdad in 2002 for meetings with Iraqi intelligence officials.

Speaking to television news reporters as she was led away from an FBI office outside of Baltimore, Lindauer described herself as an anti-war activist and said she was innocent. "I did more to stop terrorism in this country than anybody else," she said.

Kerry Defends Criticism Of Republicans

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Sen. John Kerry on Thursday fought off Republican attacks over his harsh off-the-cuff comments about his critics and refused to apologize for describing Republicans as "crooked" and "lying."

"I haven't said anything that's incorrect about them, and they've said lots of things that are incorrect," Kerry, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, told reporters, citing Republicans' attacks on his voting record, President Bush's new campaign ads against him and tactics used in earlier campaigns. "There is a Republican attack squad that specializes in trying to destroy people and be negative," he said.

The controversy over Kerry's description of Republicans as "the most crooked, you know, lying group I've ever seen," heard in a low-key conversation with workers in Chicago that was picked up by a live microphone, shadowed his return to Capitol Hill to meet with Democrats on Thursday.

Before Kerry spoke, congressional Republicans were out in force. The Republican leadership made Kerry one of the two items on the docket for their own meeting Thursday and emerged swinging.

House Votes To Raise Penalties For Indecent Broadcasts

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Saying much of the public is fed up with indecent television and radio programming, members of the House voted overwhelmingly on Thursday to increase penalties on broadcasters and performers who violate federal standards.

Spurred by a racy Super Bowl halftime show, that included the baring of singer Janet Jackson's right breast, the House voted, 391 to 22, to raise fines, to \$500,000 for the holders of broadcast licenses and entertainers from \$27,500 and \$11,000, respectively. The measure would also force the Federal Communication Commission to act more quickly on complaints and move to revoke the licenses of repeat offenders.

"For too long, we have told the entertainment industry that the federal government is unwilling to hold them accountable for their actions," Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Penn., said. "Today, we are saying, Enough is enough."

The bill, covering just content broadcast over the public airwaves and not cable or satellite programs, was strongly backed by the White House.

The Great White Hurricane"

By David Flagg

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Given our recent, prolonged mild spell and virtual snow drought, it is easy to forget just how fiendishly fickle the month of March can be in New England. This weekend marks the 116th anniversary of one such example. In early March of 1888, the weather on the East Coast of the U.S. was dry and unseasonably mild with temperatures near 50°F (10°C). Then, a major cyclone barreled into the region on the 11th, bringing heavy rain and high winds.

However, on the 12th, the rain quickly changed to snow (unexpected by meteorologists at the time), wreaking havoc over the Megalopolis through the 14th. About 21 inches (53 cm) of snow fell in New York City, with outlying areas in New York, New Jersey and New England reporting up to 40 inches (100 cm). About 12 inches (30 cm) fell in Boston. Over 400 deaths were blamed on this surprise blizzard, dubbed "The Great White Hurricane." Beware those tauntingly mild days of March!

Extended Forecast

Today: Cold and raw with light rain and drizzle likely in the morning, turning flurries around midday. Then, overcast and windy. High near 40°F (4°C).

Tonight: Cloudy early, then gradual clearing with gusty winds. Lows near 28°F (-2°C).

Saturday: Some clouds early, then turning sunny but still windy. High near 42°F (6°C).

Saturday night: Mostly clear with diminishing winds. Lows near 24°F (-4°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High near 45°F (7°C).

Monday: Increasing clouds with rain arriving in the afternoon. Mild and breezy. High near 51°F (10°C).

Madrid Train Bombings Kill Over 190 Spanish Passengers

By Elaine Sciolino

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MADRID, SPAIN

Ten bombs ripped through four commuter trains in Madrid on Thursday, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the deadliest terrorist attack on a European target since World War II.

Spanish authorities initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA. But after finding a van with detonators and tape of Quranic verses near Madrid, they held open the possibility of militant Islamic terrorism.

A group claiming links to al-Qaeda took responsibility in a letter delivered to an Arab newspaper. An American counterterrorism official said the claim should be viewed skeptically.

Spain, a U.S. ally in the war on Iraq that has 1,300 troops stationed there, was explicitly threatened as a target in an audiotape reportedly made by Osama bin Laden last October.

As the country struggled to absorb the devastation three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said, "March 11 now has its place in the

history of infamy."

The bombings came in coordinated explosions that went off within a 10-minute period shortly before 8 a.m. as people headed to work and school. The police found and detonated three other bombs.

At the main Atocha commuter station in the heart of Madrid just a block from the Prado Museum, an explosion cut a train in two, sending pieces of metal high into the air. Bloody victims crawled from mangled train cars and staggered into the streets. Other victims were found burned to death in their seats.

There, as at the nearby Santa Eugenia and El Pozo stations, broken bodies and body parts were thrown along the platforms as rescue workers struggled to separate the dead from the wounded.

Amet Oulabid, a 23-year-old carpenter, said he got off the front of the train at the Atocha station just seconds before the bomb went off in one of its rear cars.

"I saw bodies flying," he said. "There was a security guard dripping with blood. People were pushing and running. I saw a woman who had fallen on the tracks because people were pushing so hard. I escaped with my life by a

hair."

At El Pozo, just east of downtown Madrid, Luz Elena Bustos, 42, got off a nearby bus just 10 minutes before the explosion at that station.

"There were pieces of flesh and ribs all over the road," she said. "There were ribs, brains all over. I never saw anything like this. The train was blown apart. I saw a lot of smoke, people running all over, crying. I saw part of a hand up to the elbow and a body without a head face down on the ground. Flesh all over. I started to cry from nerves. There was a 3-year-old boy all burnt and a father was holding him in his arms, crying."

People combed the city's major hospitals in search of family members believed aboard the trains.

"Oh, please, God, this can't be happening," said Carmen Gomez, 47, sobbing as she studied a patient list in vain, at Gregorio Marañón hospital, seven hours after the terrorist attack. "How could a human being do this, how could a human being be doing this?"

Most of the victims were ordinary middle and working class people and university students commuting into Madrid, although children were also among the dead.

British Ex-Gitmo Detainee Says U.S. Military Police Beat Him

By Patrick E. Tyler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

One of the British detainees released from Guantanamo Bay has charged that he was brutally beaten by the U.S. military police, and that he and his fellow captives were subjected to mistreatment and humiliation.

In an interview published Thursday in The Daily Mirror, Jamal al-Harith, 37, who goes by the name Jamal Udeen, also said that U.S. military officials had brought prostitutes to the detention facility "about ten times" and had paraded them before the younger and more devout Muslim prisoners as a form of "psychological torture."

Lt. Cmdr. Barbara Burfeind, a

Pentagon spokeswoman, dismissed Udeen's assertions as completely false.

"All detainees are treated humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in accordance with the principles of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949," she said. "As the president has said before, U.S. policy condemns and prohibits torture. When questioning enemy combatants, U.S. personnel are required to follow this policy and applicable law."

Udeen's account is the first to emerge from the five British prisoners who flew home from Guantanamo Bay on Tuesday and were released after a brief period of questioning by the anti-terrorism

police. The government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has been bracing for a still uncertain public reaction to the detainees' personal accounts of life at Camp Delta. More of the accounts are expected to emerge in the next few days.

Separately on Thursday, a reporter for The Times of London, Tim Reid, wrote that he had met Udeen in a Kandahar jail, where fleeing Taliban forces had left him in early January 2002. Reid wrote that Udeen said he had been arrested by the Taliban, during a journey across Afghanistan to Iran, because he carried a British passport.

"If I came here to fight, I wouldn't have been thrown in prison," Udeen reportedly said in 2002.

WEATHER

The Great White Hurricane"

By David Flagg

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

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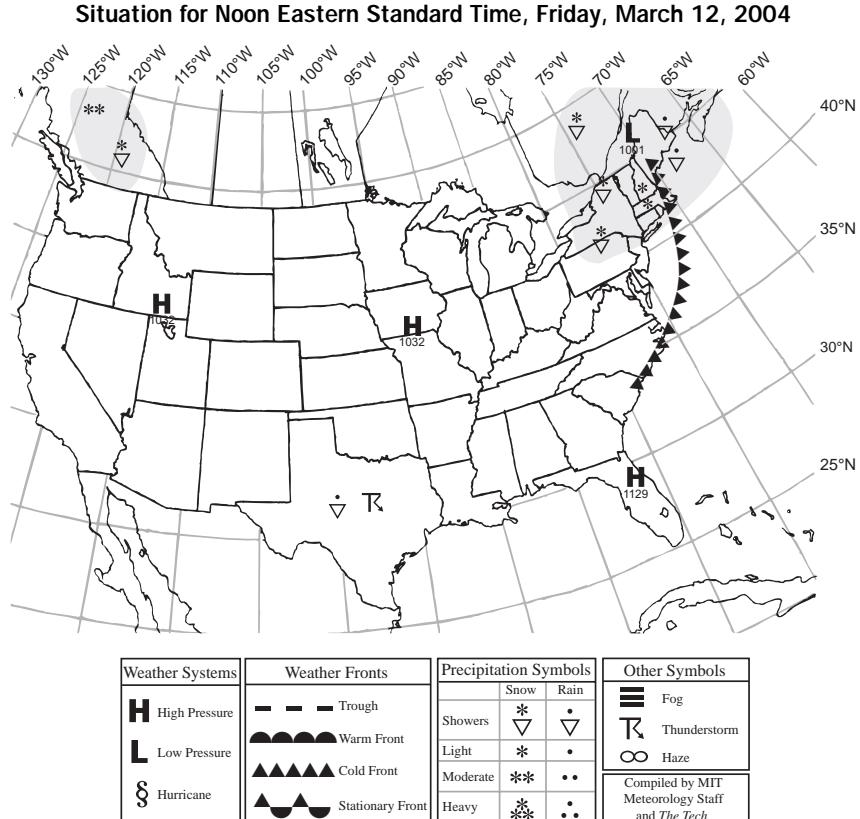
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Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, March 12, 2004



Gay Marriage Advocates Suffer Setbacks in MA, San Francisco

By Bob Keefe
COX NEWS SERVICE

Gay marriage advocates suffered a double-barreled setback Thursday, as states on either side of the country moved to prohibit same-sex weddings.

The California Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the city of San Francisco to immediately stop issuing marriage licenses to gay couples, a month almost to the day that the city set off a national debate by allowing such unions. The court said the city was violating state laws that declare a marriage is between a man and woman.

In Massachusetts, meanwhile, the legislature gave preliminary approval to a state constitutional

amendment that would ban gay marriages but allow civil unions.

Opponents of gay marriage hailed the action by the two states as a major victory, and said it was more proof that the country as a whole is against the idea of same-sex weddings.

"This is a momentum swing," said Glen Lavy, senior attorney for the Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative group that sued to stop the gay marriages in San Francisco. "But frankly, you've got people up in arms all around the country about this lawlessness."

The action in the two states stopped far short of settling the simmering disagreement over gay marriage, however.

While San Francisco must stop issuing wedding licenses to gay couples immediately, the state Supreme Court did not rule on whether or not gay marriages are legal.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has argued that prohibiting gay couples to wed violates the state constitution's rules prohibiting discrimination. In its ruling Thursday, the Supreme Court ordered Newsom to show cause why a ban on gay marriages would violate the constitution by late May or early June. The court is expected to make an ultimate ruling sometime after that.

In Massachusetts, a constitutional amendment still faces final approval and expected legal challenges from gay rights supporters.

Haiti's New Prime Minister Says Elections May Be Two Years Away

By Lydia Polgreen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Newly appointed Prime Minister Gerard Latorue said Thursday that it may take as long as two years to prepare for national elections. This would put a new elected government beyond the 2005 timeline envisioned in the U.S.-backed transition plan to help Haiti recover after the departure of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"We really want to give an equal chance to all political parties, to all candidates," said Latorue, in his first interview since returning to Haiti on Wednesday after decades of living in United States and elsewhere. "We want not to go fast, but

to take time."

Jamaica's foreign minister announced Thursday that Aristide, who left Haiti under U.S. pressure last month, would soon visit the country, Reuters reported. The news sparked speculation that Jamaica might offer him asylum, thereby resolving the question of what to do with the former president. He has been staying in the Central African Republic as diplomats scramble to find a permanent home for Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president.

He left Haiti on Feb. 29, as armed rebels menaced the capital and the United States told him it could not ensure his safety.

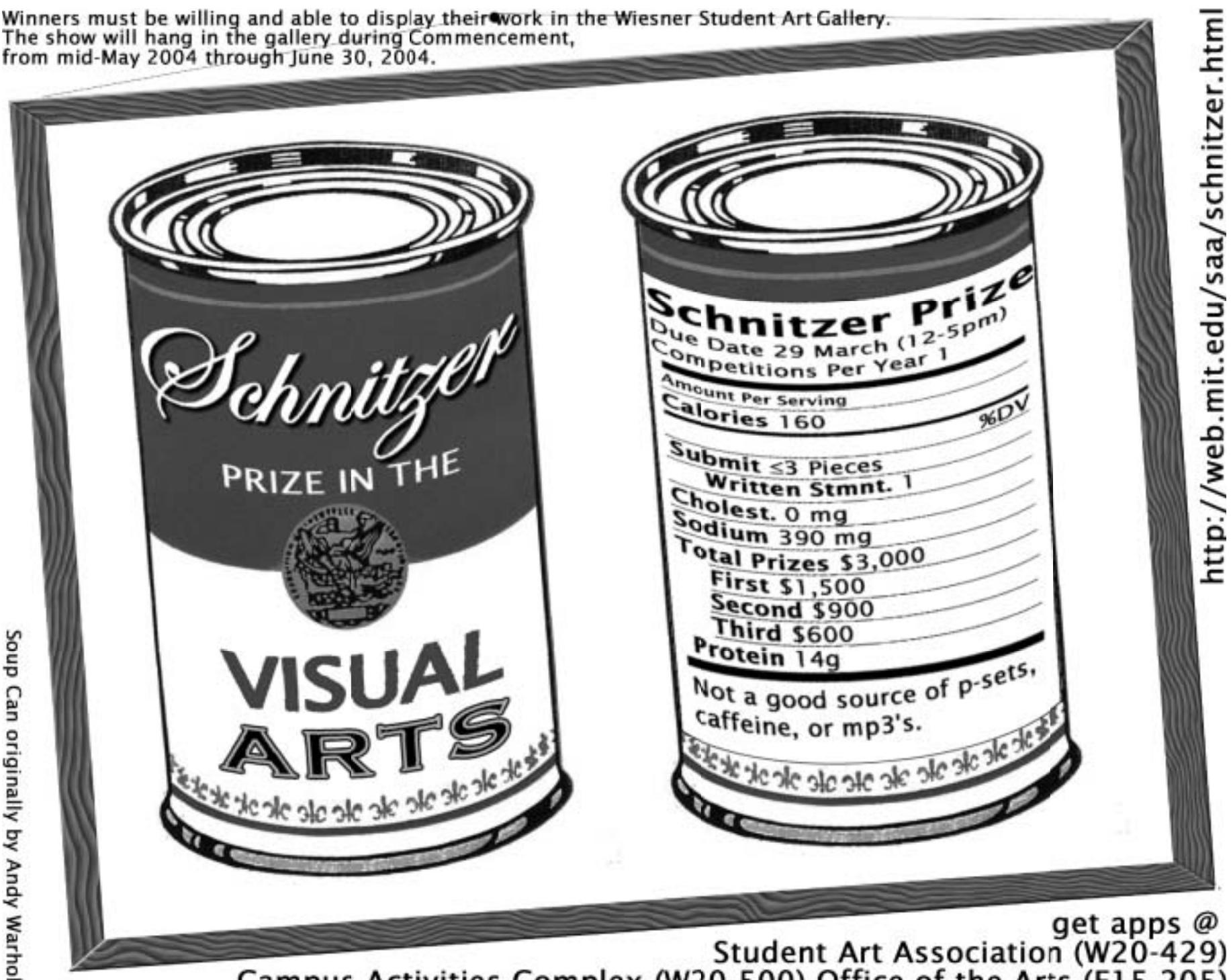
Aristide, who flew out of Haiti

on a Pentagon jet at dawn, now insists that he was kidnapped and forced from power in an American-backed coup d'etat, a charge the United States denies.

Latorue said finding a home for Aristide was a crucial task that must be completed to begin healing the country. He said he planned to build a broadly based government focused on solving Haiti's profound social, economic and security problems.

"This government has no political attachment," Latorue said. "We want to make a government of technocrats, a government of people from no political parties, of people who are independent minded. We want the transition to be as neutral as possible."

Winners must be willing and able to display their work in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery. The show will hang in the gallery during Commencement, from mid-May 2004 through June 30, 2004.



Panel Will Reconsider Cancellation of Space Telescope

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Hubble Space Telescope, seemingly doomed to die in orbit, may have won a reprieve. Under congressional pressure, NASA agreed on Thursday to have the National Academy of Sciences examine plans to cancel a space shuttle mission to repair and upgrade it.

Astronomers who scan the Hubble's spectacular images of the universe for lessons on cosmic history were jubilant about the decision, with one of them calling it a "grand slam." But the NASA administrator, Sean O'Keefe, said although he was willing to have outside experts analyze his decision against a shuttle mission, he saw little chance of any new evidence that would change his mind.

O'Keefe told reporters at a news conference that even congressional critics of his decision to abandon Hubble agreed that there should be no shuttle mission that did not fully comply with safety recommendations from the board that investigated the loss of the Columbia and its crew last year.

He said it was "not likely" that a service mission to Hubble would ever meet those safety requirements before the telescope stopped operating around 2007. "I'm still very much of the mind that unless the facts change substantially, my decision will stand."

U.S. Plan For Mideast Reform Is Tripped Up

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration, yielding to protests from European and Arab leaders, has set aside its plan to issue a sweeping call for economic, political and cultural reform in the Middle East at a June conference of major industrial nations, American and Arab officials said Thursday.

Because of Arab objections that such a call would give the appearance that change was being dictated from outside, the officials said, the summit conference will instead focus on reforms under way in the Middle East.

Administration officials said they would work with European leaders to encourage Arab nations to proclaim their own reform measures before the meeting, which is to take place at Sea Island, Ga., with President Bush as host.

On Wednesday, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell met with Jordan's foreign minister, Marwan Muasher, and discussed Jordan's attempt to persuade the Arab League to call for more open societies and democratic institutions at a meeting this month in Tunisia.

"Reform is important and needed in the Arab world," Muasher said in an interview on Thursday. "We agree with that completely. But for it to work we need ownership of the process, not a one-for-all blueprint from Washington."

OPINION



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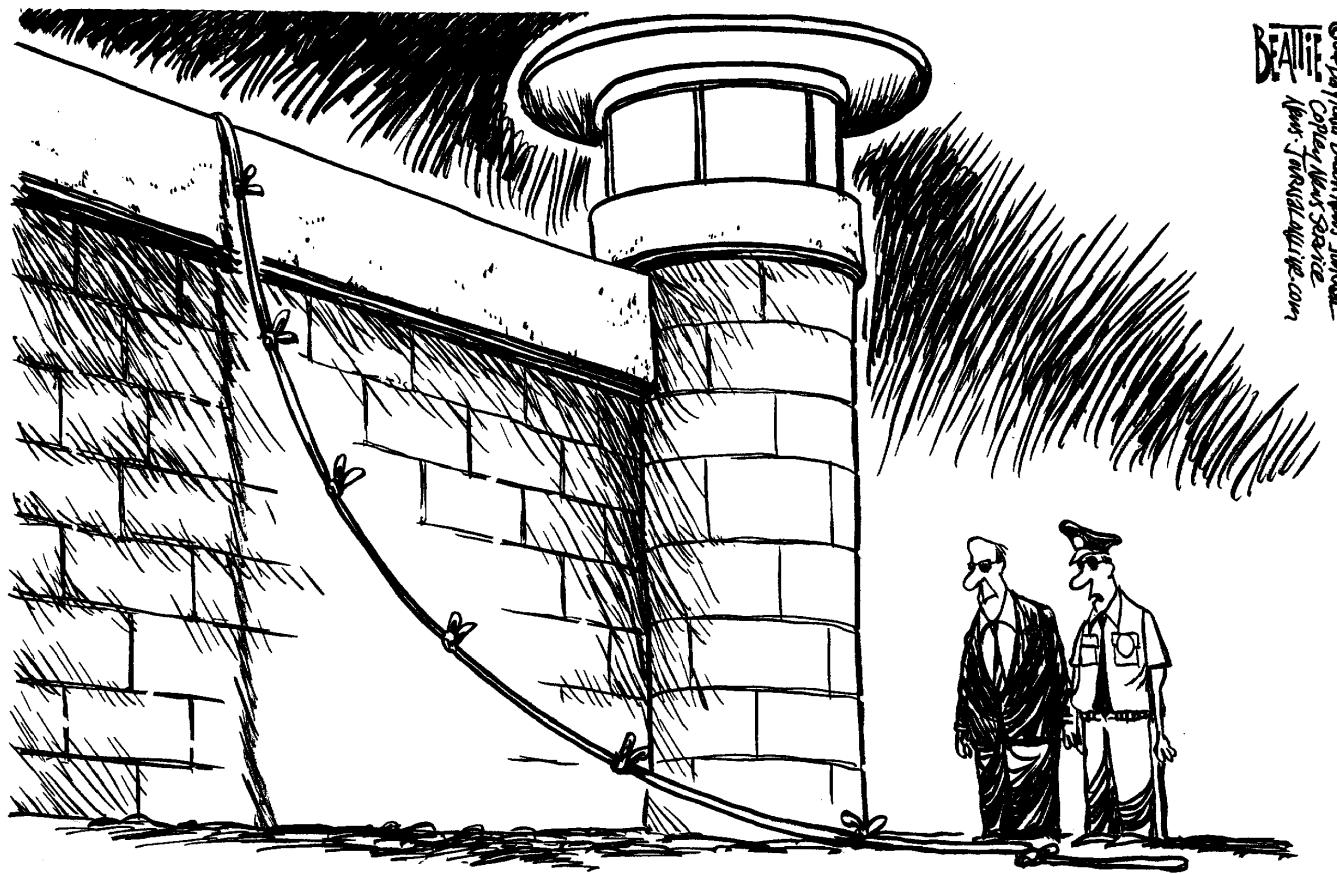
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"It's gotta be Martha . . . look at how evenly spaced and beautifully tied the knots are."

Letters To The Editor

The Need to Know

I am writing in response to the story appearing in the Arts section of the February 24 issue of *The Tech* entitled "What a Difference a Year Makes," by an anonymous author.

To say that I am extremely concerned about this would be a gross understatement — not only because it is horrifying to think that a member of this community could be the victim of such a heinous act, but because the author indicated a lack of support from those of us who are here to help our students, faculty, and staff. Upon reading the article, I immediately did a thorough search of MIT Police and Cambridge Police records, and consulted with medical and other colleagues within and outside MIT. This search found no incident of a type even close to that described in the article.

I mention this not as a defensive measure, but to emphasize that if the Campus Police are to provide assistance and support we have to be aware of such incidents when they occur. Had this department been made aware of this situation, I can assure the author of this article that we would have put all the considerable resources and expertise of the department to bear on apprehending the perpetrators. And we would have done so with the concern, care, and respect for privacy that one would expect from a professional police department.

In almost thirty years in policing, I can think of few other situations that are as troubling to me as this one. And it is all the more unfortunate to think that those of us at MIT who are charged with the care of our community were unable to fulfill this responsibility, not due to inability but because we were not

notified.

If you find yourself in danger or, worse, become a victim of a violent or other crime, please contact the MIT Police as soon as you can — at 253-1212. And if you are a witness to a crime or a suspicious situation, please call us too — any time, day or night.

John DiFava
Director of Security and Police Services

The In-Your-Face Ugliness of Stata

An article in the March 7 edition of *The Boston Globe* entitled "Monumental Effort" [http://www.boston.com/business/globe/articles/2004/03/07/monumental_effort/], has goaded me to finally write about a subject over which I have been stewing for at least a year: the new Stata Center building's architecture.

The Stata Center is the most horrendously ugly building erected by MIT in its entire history. Its ugliness is apparent to all viewers — except, apparently, MIT's own architecture academics. I am not alone in holding this opinion; all of my MIT alum friends who have seen the building have expressed to me their own disgust at the building's design. Our general consensus is that the building looks like the rubble strewn around by a larger building's collapse.

Of course, MIT has a long tradition of ugly architecture, starting in the 1960s. Amongst the styles of ugly architecture on display at MIT are "bland corporate back-office" (McCormick Hall), "scrap metal as sculpture" (Transparent Horizons), "cold and trendy Euro-modernism" (the Waffle Building),

"windowless brick box" (several of the newer West Campus dormitories), and "bomb-shelter brutalism" (Building 66). None of these edifices, however, come close to the aggressive, in-your-face ugliness of the Stata Center. The Stata Center's ugliness can only be compared to some horrible, disfiguring war wound on an unfortunate veteran who insists upon angrily waving it in your face again and again in order to vent his rage about his calamity.

As an alum, the appalling ugliness is made even more obscene by the more than 100 percent cost overrun over original budget estimates. In the commercial world, a team which approved 100 percent cost overruns on such a monstrous project would likely find themselves looking for new employment if they couldn't provide detailed, credible, and thoughtful justifications for their decisions. I suggest that MIT should, at the very least, appoint a body to investigate and reform the decision-making process behind choosing Gehry as the architect and then approving the design without considering the likely cost.

Perhaps now is the time for MIT to do some soul-searching about its new building policy. I suggest that rather than continually trying to make architectural "statements," MIT's building committees should concentrate more upon providing decent, cost-effective infrastructure for research and education — its primary missions. Until MIT makes structural changes suggesting that it has rethought its building policy, I will not be interested in hearing pleas from the development office for any more donations — I see no reason to provide money to fund such extravagantly ugly projects.

Stuart Brorson PhD '90

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, opinion editor, and a senior editor.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Squeezing the Juice out of Baseball

Vivek Rao

Major League Baseball is used to more than its fair share of controversies and pseudo-disasters, but the organization may now be facing its toughest challenge in years. With rumors of rampant steroid use by players, a high-profile trial involving a pivotal drug company, and specific allegations against three of the sport's most talented stars, professional baseball once again runs the risk of alienating the general public, despite a marvelously entertaining 2003 season.

Baseball players, like all professional athletes these days, are bigger, faster, and stronger than their predecessors. A combination of new and improved workout techniques, healthier and more informed dietary habits, and a 365-day-a-year commitment to staying in shape has produced sportsmen who at times seem part human, part machine. At the same time, however, the stakes involved in professional sports have exploded; astronomic salaries mean that small gains in speed or strength can and do lead to significantly better on-field results, which inevitably translate into multimillion dollar pay raises. And thus, athletes have become increasingly willing to experiment with performance-enhancing drugs.

Particularly, in baseball, the fascination of fans (the people who put money in the pockets of team owners) and owners (the rich guys who write players' checks) with the long ball has led hitters to pursue any and all options that can help them smack the ball over the fence. Slugger Mark McGwire, who famously broke Roger Maris's hallowed single-season home run record in 1998, brought heightened attention to players, new performance-enhancing drug binge through his highly publicized use of androstenedione, a legal supplement.

Speculation regarding steroids in baseball mounted over the last couple of years when a number of former players made claims, either in books or through the press, of widespread usage. Some alleged that more than half of all Major League players use steroids, and though those claims have generally dismissed as blatant exaggeration, many baseball insiders have suggested that 10 percent is a more accurate estimate. That number is still far too high, and it places the entire legitimacy and integrity of the sport in question, threatening to drive fans away even at a time when baseball is doing quite well.

All the arguments that players present for opposing stronger steroid testing add up to no more than a hill of beans.

Having finally recovered from its infamous labor dispute of 1994-95, Major League Baseball surged to its strongest television ratings in years last fall, boosted by the spectacular rivalry between the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees and the continued success of underdog teams like the Florida Marlins. Total regular season attendance, meanwhile, stood at a solid 67,630,052, up 12.5 percent from 1996. But all of that can and will change if baseball doesn't remedy the steroid problem soon.

The logical solution would be mandatory steroid testing for all Major League players. Those who use the illegal drugs right now would probably (though not definitely) be caught, and any younger players would probably think twice before starting on "the juice."

In a 2002 collective bargaining agreement, the players, union and the owners actually agreed upon a limited testing program that has been labeled severely insufficient by a number of people, including Arizona senator John McCain. Under the agreement, baseball players were tested anonymously last season. Roughly 5 to 7 percent of those anonymous tests came back positive, triggering the institution of a penalty system. However, the punishment of a

one-year suspension is not meted out until a player commits his fifth offense.

McCain and others who feel that the repercussions for steroid use should carry significantly more bite are absolutely right. There is no place for illegal drugs in baseball. All the arguments that players present for opposing stronger testing add up to no more than a hill of beans. Yes, testing does deprive them of a certain degree of freedom, but if you plan to make your living off athletic performance, you need to respect the need for a level playing field. The presence of steroids in a sport only drives others who normally wouldn't use drugs to start, since they logically fear that they would suffer a significant competitive disadvantage by staying clean. If unchecked, this could eventually escalate into a situation where most professional baseball players feel forced to take steroids, and perhaps worse, younger players in college and high school start taking illegal supplements, viewing them as a requisite for performing well enough to draw the attention of Major League scouts.

The solution is simple: baseball needs to institute a significantly stricter steroid testing policy as soon as possible. With players opposing obviously warranted policies, and with owners sitting on their hands, worried about the image of baseball but scared of risking the end of the home run binge that carried the sport through the 1990s, McCain and other members of Congress are threatening to impose "legislative remedies" that would stipulate a comprehensive testing plan if Major League Baseball is unable to do so in-house.

McCain is right to point out that the sport has a "legitimacy problem," but the only way to truly solve that problem is for the players to step up and agree to rigid testing. Granted, the union is strong and it has fought hard for the solid bargaining power it enjoys today, but this is one time that the players can gain by giving in. If baseball wants to maintain its fan base, it needs to get rid of steroids on its own, proving that it is serious about maintaining its integrity and preventing the possibility of getting shown up by Congress.

Can Europe Be Saved?

Basil Enwegbara

When one watches American commentators such as Lou Dobbs screaming to save American jobs and the middle-class economy, one quickly wonders why their European counterparts are so silent. In other words, as Americans fight the "unfairness" in today's globalization in an effort to save middle-class capitalism, European counterparts are looking the other way; they are fighting to save the European type of capitalism — capitalism that guarantees social equality. Little wonder Europe is more of a spectator than an active player in the globalization game.

But why did Europe choose this form of capitalism? Has Europe simply given up after being subdued for decades by America and Japan? Can Europe fight back and become a serious competitor? For how long will Europeans live in global insecurity? Isn't it time the old continent recognized that the present direction is a dead end?

Conventional wisdom has long answered that Europe is the victim of its own failures — failures to abandon its colonial and aristocratic mentality. The inability to recognize that the once held assumption of cultural superiority belongs to a far away past. While the richest country in the world, the United States, has refused to permit citizens a free lunch, even when its superior economic power could allow it to do so, Europe persuaded citizens to believe the right to citizenship is an entitlement to economic security, once sustained by colonial exploitation. Simply unchallenged and untamed, social capitalism has permeated in all the lifeblood of European economic endeavors that any effort to dismantle will be fiercely opposed as a non-European way. Europe has falsely allowed citizens to prefer the comfort zone as long as they are Europeans.

What better place to begin to see the devastating impact than in the areas of unemployment claims and social compensation, a

situation increasingly complicated by an aging society? But the unavoidable question to ask is: how can everyone want a larger share of the pie without wanting to help the pie grow? I am not suggesting Europe to embrace raw capitalism — capitalism simply driven by crooked corporate officers, the looting of pension funds, the defrauding of stockholders, and the wholesale firing of hardworking employees as has been the case in recent times in the US. Nor am I in favor of reckless capitalist affluence that erodes family values, that eats away our sense of community and devastates our natural environment. What I am trying to convey is a healthy capitalist system that is driven by competition and that rewards the winner well enough to justify the risk and the sacrifice.

Before anyone jumps to the contrary, one should first take a look at the state of education enterprise in Europe — that is, halls of academe littered with all forms of decay simply because there is no competitive environment. And unlike their American counterparts constantly in the struggle to remain on the frontier of generating new knowledge, knowledge that is critical to their survival, most European universities depend fully on government budgetary allocations and seem less concerned about the quality of the products. And the fact that there is little wage differential between the best and worst educated seem to create no interest in the pursuit of better education.

Worsened by the fact that everyone is guaranteed the non-negotiable right to job protection with a good a living wage, those who dare venture to seek a competitive lifestyle seem to be punished for even

dreaming of class capitalism by being forced to carry all sorts of tax burdens.

Companies wanting to be entrepreneurial are fiercely discouraged through taxes and other social obligations. Little wonder most of today's European corporations were all the product of colonial gains, while many of their top-performing American counterparts, including Wal-Mart, Microsoft, Intel, Verizon, Hewlett-Packard, and others, were founded recently out of sheer entrepreneurial bravery.

Little wonder today America is restless with the growing threat from China and India, as it fears finding itself where Europe did at the beginning of the 20th century. Europe seems content to pick from what is leftover. What once was the center of events where global decisions were made unilaterally is increasingly becoming irrelevant.

Europe can only be saved when Europeans come to the painful realization that they can no longer continue business as usual — that is, that there are no two forms of capitalism. The only option that remains for Europe to reinvent itself and become a relevant player in the global economic system of this century is to release the power of entrepreneurial competition to citizens, and to allow the gains that go to those who win be fully theirs, even if that will mean attractive tax incentives including foreigners who are willing to take the investment risks. Handing over of most of its currently public-dependent universities to private hands could be another place to start the European transformation. But what is the likelihood of these things happening? Pretty slim.



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FUN PAGES

Page
6

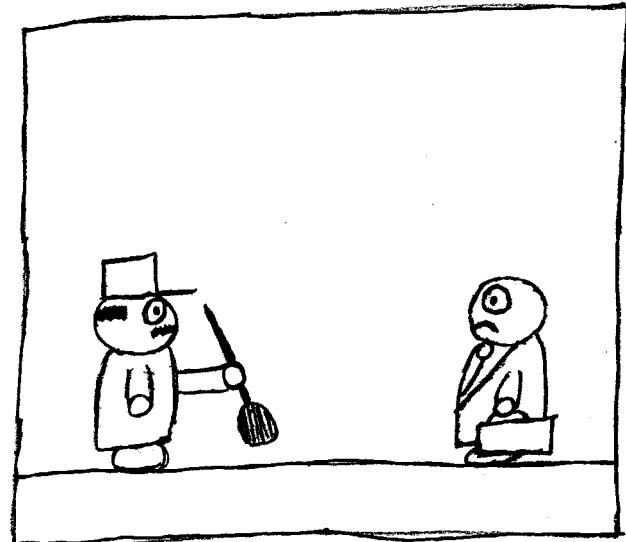
Trio

Play Bobby's NAME THAT TUNE, and get your name shown -here-...details at: alum.mit.edu/www/emeie by Emezie Okorafor



Fuck U, Course 6

by Brian Loux



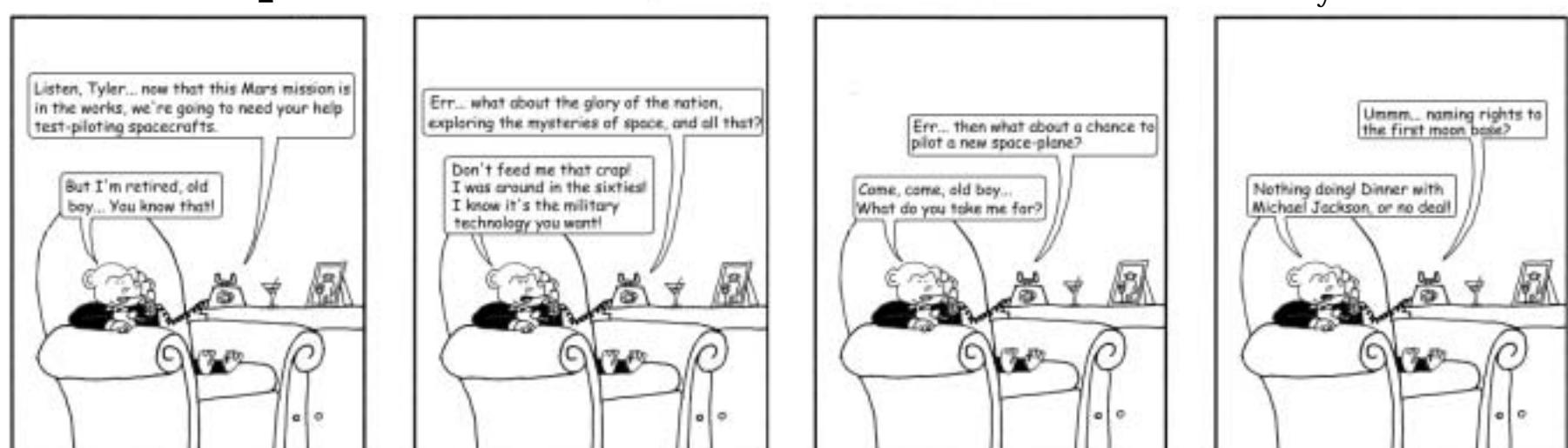
Filler Space "AQUA VITAE"

by Jason Burns



Fascist Popsicle Stand

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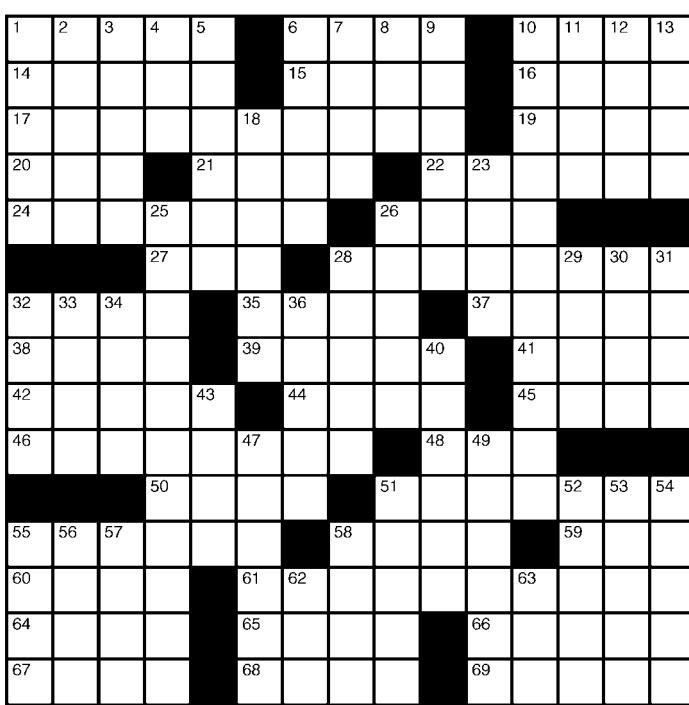


FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams**Crossword Puzzle***Solution, page 18*

ACROSS		51		55		58		59		60		61		64		65		66		67		68		69	
1	Harshness																								
6	Basilica section																								
10	Hefty slice																								
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15	Plan to tighten one's belt?																								
16	Language subtlety																								
17	Dealer's line																								
19	Grown acorns																								
20	Pull the plug on																								
21	Overdo the saccharine																								
22	Milk choice																								
24	Paper hankies																								
26	" kleine Nachtmusik"																								
27	Potpie veggie																								
28	I beg your pardon																								
32	Train to box																								
35	Dispatched																								
37	Wander away																								
38	Caron film																								
39	Bring to bear																								
41	Jack up																								
42	Beside																								
44	Minor tender in India																								
45	Marsh grass																								
46	Ruffian																								
48	One of Pooh's pals																								
50	Brit's apartment																								



Do you like to make people laugh?

Are you a good cartoonist?

Are you just bored?

JOIN THE TECH! join@tt.mit.edu**COURSE VI FRESHMEN
OPEN HOUSE**

Monday, March 15, 2004

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, Rm. 10-105 (Bush Room)

Come see amazing works by students from the IAP 2004 robotics classes.

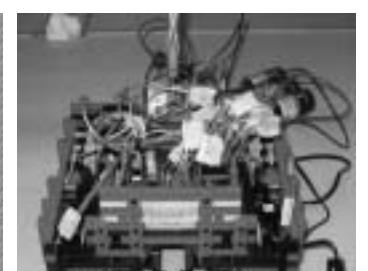
Participants include:



MASLab: Mobile Autonomous Systems Laboratory



6.370: The ACM/IEEE Programming Contest



6.270: Autonomous Robot Design Competition

ALL FRESHMEN, Course VI or not, are WELCOME!

Meet lots of Course VI faculty and students, and get FREE stuff and FOOD!

Sponsored by the EECS Department (ug@eecs.mit.edu)



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Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Friday, March 12

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - You Light Up My Life Day. Promoting energy conservation on MIT's campus. Outreach & education. Free. Room: Building 10 Lobby. Sponsor: Students for Global Sustainability, MIT Community Solar Power Initiative. Department of Facilities, Department of Housing.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Writers Group. New writers are invited to join our weekly Writers Group (sponsored by the Writing and Communication Center). Share a piece of your writing with other interested and supportive writers. Open to all MIT students, staff, faculty, and spouses. Free. Room: 14N-417. Sponsor: Writing and Communication Center.

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and questioning members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. Every Friday from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. is a brown bag lunch! Free. Room: Rainbow Lounge (50-306). Sponsor: lbg@mit.

12:00 p.m. - BCS Vision Seminar Series - Sara C. Mednick, Ph.D. "The Role of Napping in Perceptual Learning and Deterioration." Free. Room: E25-401. Sponsor: Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - BrioQuery 6 Quick Start. Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Services and Technology.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch Seminar. MIT OE graduate Nick Hahn will speak on his experiences working at Electric Boat. free. Room: 5-314. Sponsor: 13SEAS, GSC Funding Board.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - MIT/CRE Career Services Presentation. Career Profile: Entrepreneurs - Henri-Claude Baily, RCG, Stephen Samuels, Samuels Associates, Mark Baranski, The Aspen Group. Free. Room: W31-301. Sponsor: Center for Real Estate.

12:05 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Anna B. Scott in Fish tales, Rivers, and Other Female Parts. A dance/memory piece, Fish Tales investigates the role of women, memory, and structured forgetting in African Diaspora dance forms, especially those that were once ritual components. Combining the one woman show with "high folclorico" choreography and "base folk" dance/motion, Fish Tales seeks to make transparent the methodological control of the vanished Female Other deep in the pot. The dish, Mawu's Babies, will be served immediately after the show. . free. Room: Kresge. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program, Theater Arts.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Green Chemistry: Reducing Toxic Chemicals in Chemistry Research. Dr. Kirchhoff's presentation is part of a project being carried out by the Department of Chemistry and the Environmental Programs Office intended to reduce the amount of toxic chemicals used in chemistry research and the associated hazardous waste disposal burden. Less hazardous alternatives to commonly used reagents and solvents will be identified in this project and the purchasing system will be modified to present these alternatives to potential users. Everyone who purchases and uses chemicals and is required to have hazardous waste disposal training should attend this presentation. Free. Room: Room 4-253. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, Chemistry.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Modern Times, Rural Places Seminar. Wrangling over the Range: Land Ownership and the Fate of Ranching in the American West. Free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: History Office, STS.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Second Kind Integral Equations For Scattering By Open Surfaces. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Physical Mathematics Seminar.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - SSL Seminar (Alvar Saenz-Otero). Topic: Principles for ISS Laboratory Designs. Free. Room: 37-212. Sponsor: AeroAstro.

4:00 p.m. - BCS Colloquium - Dan Ariely, Ph.D. Tom Sawyer and the Myth of Fundamental Values. Free. Room: E25-117. Sponsor: Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - PSFC Seminar. Lithium for the treatment of bipolar disorder in tokamaks - some clinical observations. Free. Room: NW17-218. Sponsor: Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Rook Numbers and the Normal Ordering Problem. Reception at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:00 p.m. - Deadline: Playwrights in Performance Script Submissions. Associate Provost of the Arts, Professor Alan Brody directs a series of one-act plays selected through review. All at MIT eligible to submit manuscripts, but members of the Playwrights Workshop will have priority in the selection process. Play choices announced on March 15. Free. Room: Rm 10-280. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

6:00 p.m. - Shabbat Services & Dinner. Celebrate Shabbat. MIT Hillel's three religious communities hold Shabbat services at 6 p.m. (Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform) A community Shabbat dinner follows at 7 p.m. Cost for dinner only. Room: W11. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Graduate Christian Fellowship Student/Faculty Dinner. Free. Room: W20-306. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Dinner Conversations With the Highly Acclaimed Writer Patricia Powell. Patricia Powell will talk about the human side of her craft, including a biographical sketch and journey into the "trenches" of the creative and technical aspects of writing a novel. Patricia Powell is the author of three novels, "Me Dying Trial" (1993), "A Small Gathering of Bones" (1994), and "The Pagoda" (1998). Set in Jamaica, her novels explore the impact of the forces of personal and political history on individual racial and sexual identity. Powell's writing is noted for its sensuality and luminosity, as well as her precise insight into the emotional lives of her characters. Free. Room: Simmons Hall W79, Housemaster Reception Hall. Sponsor: Visiting Scholars @ Simmons Hall.

6:15 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. - CCC Friday Dinner. Meet us for dinner before Real Life Boston in the Student Center's Alpine Bagel. Free. Room: Alpine Bagel. Sponsor: Campus Crusade for Christ.

6:55 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - CCC Real Life Boston. Did you know that there are 42 campuses in the greater Boston area? Well, wouldn't it be cool to fellowship with Christians from all these schools? You can! Campus Crusade for

Christ and Park Street Church have a city wide college ministry. Real Life is a group of students from colleges all over Boston. The Campus Crusade for Christ Fellowships from all these schools get together to worship God, seek His will, and grow in our faith. Real Life is on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. (usually in the Science Hall at Harvard University). All are welcome! Free. Room: Student Center Steps. Sponsor: Campus Crusade for Christ.

7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. - MIT Anime Club Showing: R.O.D. the TV, Flame of Recca, KimiNozo. The MIT Anime Club shows the best of both recent and classic Japanese animation. Tonight: R.O.D. the TV, Flame of Recca, and Kimi ga Nozomu Eien. Free. Room: 4-370. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT, UA Finance Board.

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - ACF Large Group meeting - The Holiness of God. Worship, teaching, discussion, food, fun! Prayer meeting at 6 p.m. All are welcome! Free. Room: McCormick Brown Living Room. Sponsor: Asian Christian Fellowship.

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Shabbat Dinner. The traditional Jewish Friday night meal in a relaxed, festive and social atmosphere. Free. Room: Edgerton Large Lounge. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board, Grad Hillel.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - House of Sand and Fog. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Bible Study. Is there more to life than grad school? We believe the answer is "YES!" Come study the word of God with us. There will be dinner provided and games afterward. Free. Room: 1-150. Sponsor: Asian Baptist Student Koinonia Graduate Division, GSC Funding Board.

8:00 p.m. - Much Ado About Nothing. \$8, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Shakespeare Ensemble.

8:00 p.m. - MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble. Frederick Harris, director. "Transformations." Exploring how jazz composers/arrangers transform existing pieces into their own musical language. Featuring the music of Ellington, Mingus, Mulligan, Gil Evans, and others. \$5. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

7:30 p.m. - An Evening of Chamber Music. Chamber music for flute, clarinet, violin, viola and cello. Program to include: Hindemith Duo for clarinet and cello Mozart Quartet in D Major, K. 285 Villa-Lobos Choros No. 2 Beethoven String Trio . \$5. Room: Yamawaki Art and Cultural Center, 49 Myrtle Ave., Newton, MA. Sponsor: The Amaryllis Chamber Ensemble.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Patrol. Travel to strange new classrooms. Meet interesting, unusual people, and kill them! Patrol is a high-action game of live combat with rubber-dart guns. Shoot your friends, then watch out as they try to take their revenge. Free. Room: 36-115. Sponsor: Assassins' Guild, MIT.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Carrom Fest. Free. Room: Sidney-Pacific Michael Owu House Common Room (ground floor). Sponsor: MIT Singapore Students Association.

8:00 p.m. - Much Ado About Nothing. \$8, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Shakespeare Ensemble.

8:00 p.m. - MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble. Frederick Harris, director. "Transformations." Exploring how jazz composers/arrangers transform existing pieces into their own musical language. Featuring the music of Ellington, Mingus, Mulligan, Gil Evans, and others. \$5. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

Sunday, March 14

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Sunday Jazz Brunch @ MIT Endicott House. Sunday Jazz Brunch featuring the unique and distinctive Improvisational Style of Bob Toabe, Classical Jazz Pianist. Enjoy a sumptuous brunch and the grand ambiance of MIT Endicott House. Tours of the Mansion included. \$30 inclusive of brunch, tours, performance, taxes and service charges. Room: MIT Endicott House, Dedham MA. Sponsor: Artists Behind the Desk, MIT Endicott House. MIT Council for the Arts.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - SP Sunday Brunch. Free. Room: Sidney Pacific Multipurpose Room. Sponsor: Sidney-Pacific House Council, GSC Funding Board, LEF (Large Events Fund).

12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Eat This! - Sangam ICC Potluck. A potluck of Indian Dishes - where you are the chef, and your entry can WIN you prizes! E-mail icook@mit.edu. Free. Room: La Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Sangam.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Weekend Two-Day Holography Studio. \$50 includes MIT Museum admission. Room: N52-200. Sponsor: MIT Museum.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Mass. Free. Room: Mass. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

3:00 p.m. - Israel Folk Dance Festival. A festival of the dance and music of Israel. \$12.00. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Mate & Tortas Fritas. A cultural event that shows typical Argentinean food. Free. Room: 1-135. Sponsor: Club Argentino, INFORMS Club.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - House of Sand and Fog. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - International Folk Dancing (participatory). International folk dancing. Teaching and beginners' dances from 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. A mixture of all skill levels from 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. Our repertoire includes dances from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, and others) as well as other parts of Europe and the rest of the world (Israel, France, Russia, even England and the US). Note: We will move to La Sala de Puerto Rico (on the second floor of the Student Center) if it is available. MIT/Wellesley students free; suggested donation \$1 from others.

Room: Student Center room W20-491. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - Amores Perros. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday, March 15

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Mac Tech Partners. Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Services and Technology.

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Role of Policy in Achieving an Energy Efficient Built Environment. Spring 2004 Building Technology Lecture Series. Free. Room: AVT, Room 7-437. Sponsor: Building Technology Program.

12:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Nuclear & Particle Theory Seminar. On the fate of Lorentz symmetry in quantum spacetime. free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Kirwan-Novikov inequalities on a manifold with boundary. Free. Room: 4-163. Sponsor: Differential Geometry Seminar, Mathematics, Department of. Symplectic Geometry.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Every Place Is an Archive: Environmental History and the Interpretation of Physical Evidence. STS Colloquium. Free. Room: E51-095. Sponsor: STS.

4:00 p.m. - Spring Biological Chemistry Seminar Series: Prof. Amy Keating, MIT Biology Department. Combinatorial Interactions of the bZIP transcription factor leucine zippers: measurements and predictions, by Prof. Amy Keating. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: MIT Biology, Department Spring Biological Chemistry Seminar Series.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Studying 1 John. Free. Room: Ashdown Lobby. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - Trivia Night at the Thirsty Ear. Every Monday is Trivia Night. Bring a team and compete for great prizes like DVDs, CDs, movie passes, gift certificates, and more! The Thirsty Ear Pub is located in the basement of Ashdown House. Enter through the courtyard. Must be over 21 — proper ID required. Free. Room: The Thirsty Ear Pub. Sponsor: The Thirsty Ear Pub.

Design Eto Otitigbe (S.B. 1999)

8:00 p.m. - Student Workshop. Theater work TBA directed by Dan Liston '04. free. Room: Kresge Rehearsal Rm B. Sponsor: Theater Arts.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - Amores Perros. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

FEATURES

Deep Conversations

Dean Magnanti — An Engineer for All Seasons

By Zach Ozer
FEATURES COLUMNIST

The Tech: Your forte is implementing efficient systems on a large scale. Is MIT more or less efficient because students never sleep and so the facilities are always being utilized to some extent at some time?

Dean of Engineering Thomas L. Magnanti: My thesis adviser many years ago wrote a book called Compact City. Compact City was designed to be a city that was a mile by a mile by a mile — a cube. His idea was that you would have 24 hour utilization of the city. You would have restaurants and some of us would eat dinner at six in the morning and some of us would eat dinner at eight at night. And in some ways, MIT is like a Compact City in that we are always around.

I'll tell you a little story about this. I used to have an office across campus in building E40. At that time I lived far out so I had a condo in town and two nights a week I would stay in town. I would typically work late at night, go get a few hours sleep, then come back the next morning. But no matter what time I left, there were always still students.

I would leave at 11-12 but still there would be students. One night I got really busy and was in the office at three in the morning. So I went out, looked around the student area and not a student was in sight. I declared (triumphantly) "Finally. Finally I've outlasted them." Just as I'm going out the door a student comes walking in. It's just hopeless. I think that's part of the vibrancy. There's always something happening.

TT: Now this is just a hypothetical, but if we assume that MIT is the smartest place in the world and you're the head of the School of Engineering, does that make you the smartest engineer in the world? Or does that just make you the smartest person alive?

Magnanti: None of the above. Again, one of the great things about being at MIT is that there are lots of people who are smarter than you around this place.

TT: So are you the coolest engineer in the world?

Magnanti: Uh, no. I wouldn't say that either.

TT: Could you fix a toaster oven?

Magnanti: No. I'm actually mechanically challenged. In fact my wife doesn't like me changing light bulbs because there's a good chance that I'll do something wrong when I do it. But we have a toaster that's broken in our basement and I have not fixed it. Instead of collecting toasters we tend to collect televisions. I think we have about ten televisions.

TT: Do you post them on reuse?

Magnanti: No, we're still using 'em.

TT: Obviously, you've had a lot of experience with being an engineer and advising engineers, so if there was one reason that came up in your mind for not being an engineer, what would it be?

Magnanti: (long pause) Hmm... I don't know the answer to that one. I was gonna say to be a poet or be an artist, but engineers can do that as well. I think there's no good reason not to be an engineer. There is absolutely no good reason not to be an engineer.

TT: I think that's the right answer.

Magnanti: Engineers can do everything.

TT: What's the messiest finger food that you really enjoy? Ya know the thing that like drips with some sort of sauce and no matter what you're gonna need a napkin afterwards.

Magnanti: I guess I would just say fried chicken. I like fried chicken. But I have had something once called pigeon pie. I was in Morocco and pigeon pie is this big pie and



AKSHAY PATIL—THE TECH

Dean of Engineering Thomas L. Magnanti sits in his office in 1-206. While leading and overseeing perhaps one of the smartest aggregations of engineers in the academic world, he publicly admits that he is unable to repair his toaster.

you eat it with your fingers. You just sorta pull it out and... (Motions as if hurriedly dumping an object into mouth) and that was actually quite pleasant.

TT: Ok. But here's the real question: Should you use a napkin immediately after you get messy, or should you wait until you're done and just remain messy till the end?

Magnanti: (Pause) This is an important question.

TT: This is an important question.

Magnanti: You gotta think about this.

TT: Cuz you could either have a stack of napkins this high (motions several inches off of table), or just look foolish for ten minutes.

Magnanti: Yeah, I tend to be of the school of using lots of napkins. Grab a napkin, use it up, go to the next one, use it up. But I can relate to people who might just wait to the end. Go to some of these crab places where you crack your crabs and I think there it might just be better to go for it... Not to use the napkins over and over again.

TT: Alright, so this is just one of those questions... are you the proverbial "man" and should I be "sticking it to you?"

Magnanti: I don't even know what that means.

TT: Ya know... sticking it to the man... it's just an expression...

Magnanti: What's the "proverbial man?" I don't understand the question

TT: Like society, kind of, or like, ya know all those movies, like umm... Did you ever see "Animal House"?

Magnanti: Never seen "Animal House."

TT: In that movie, the Dean is "the man," he's holding everyone down, he's un-cool... so the question was more like, have you become less hip since your younger days?

Magnanti: When I first joined MIT, I had hair down to my shoulders. I came out of the hippy generation of the late 60s and early 70s I've certainly become less hip than I used to be. That's for sure.

TT: So the first time I read your name I thought it was either Man - Gati or Man - Ga - Niti. So what I want to know is: what's the worst mispronunciation of your name you've ever heard?

Magnanti: I don't know if it's pronunciation, but I had once someone say that I must be an Irish goat 'cause I'm a McNanti. So, I'm Mc, in terms of Irish, and Nanti is a goat. Guess that makes me Italian Irish.

TT: So you hold degrees in chemical engineering, statistics, mathematics and operations research. Did I get most of them?

Magnanti: That's it.

TT: Oh, ok. Are you really a renaissance man? Did you know DaVinci?

Magnanti: Well, I'm old enough to know DaVinci. We were doing stone tablets when I first came to MIT.

TT: Sanskrit?

Magnanti: Yeah, a little bit of Sanskrit. I think I'm old enough to know DaVinci.

TT: Was he a cool guy?

Magnanti: Very cool.

TT: Italy and all that... You ever chill out?

Magnanti: Yeah, we came from the same small town in Italy.

TT: You've done everything... Business, research, you've even been an editor in chief of Operations Research. Is there anything you haven't done, or at least, anything that Homer Simpson hasn't done yet?

Magnanti: There are things I haven't done that I have always want to do. My life's aspiration has been to play left field for the Boston Red Sox. So it was gonna be Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Jim Rice, and Tom Magnanti. But I didn't quite have the talent. To this day I don't drink coffee because there's an old wife's tale about how coffee can stunt your growth and I never know when I'm gonna have a growth spurt... then I can go play for the Celtics with Jody and Speed. I'm still waiting for that. That's my real aspiration, to play sports.

TT: Can we just send you to Mars to make sure that you really have done everything? The first mission...

Magnanti: This would actually be good for life after deaning. Very good idea. Maybe I could take some compatriots, folks that have been deaning. We could take a whole crew of us up there.

TT: The first manned mission to Mars...

Magnanti: Deans in Space.

TT: Tell me the truth... is there life after deanship?

Magnanti: This is a darn good question... Yeah. I'm gonna profess.

TT: Ah, so there is life after deanship.

Magnanti: I'm sure hoping so.

TT: Obviously you've done a lot, so what would you want to teach in?

Magnanti: My area is optimization. So I'd like to teach some optimization. I've got a couple of books I'd like to write... ya know... the old man books. Sort of late in your career, you get to write these books, looking back on the field...

TT: Why don't young guys get to write books?

Magnanti: They do. I actually wrote a book when I was very young.

TT: You ever go to the Library of Congress and go through the stacks to find your book?

Magnanti: No, not the Library of Congress, but sometimes I'll be in a bookstore, and I'll look, if they've got technical books, I see if my book's there... Every once in a while it is. Not often, but every once in a while.

TT: Do you point out to people... "Hey, they've got my book!"

Magnanti: I don't think I've done it at a bookstore, but I've done it other places.

TT: You were a major part of MIT/industry research relationship, so tell me the truth... is everything here one big sociological experiment? Like part of some master plan that we don't know about? If you tell me are you going to have to burn the tape and all that sort of good stuff? If so, we can just skip to the next question.

Magnanti: Well, I guess the question is not whether we've orchestrated, but whether the Martians have orchestrated some large experiment and if we're all on earth part of this large experiment. That's actually the more interesting question.

TT: Any broad social statements you'd like to make? Any advice you'd like to give out?

Magnanti: I remember when I got married and my brother was the best man. He had imbibed a bit, he got to make the toast, and he said, "Be happy just be happy." So that's my advice.

TT: Fantastic. That's all folks.

Magnanti: That's all folks... I'll tell you a story about "that's all folks."

There's a very famous man by the name of Edwards Deming. He sort of revolutionized manufacturing in terms of specific portions of manufacturing. He came to MIT to give a talk and I was his host. I think he was 93 at the time. We had lunch with him and during lunch he was sort of fading in and out. Now we're having a talk in Kresge Auditorium and so I develop this deathly fear that this 93 year old fellow might not be too with it for the talk.

So we get there for the talk and he's absolutely marvelous. He sits down in front of the projector and gives this marvelous talk, but he goes on for a long time. Then someone asks the first question, and he starts to answer, and gives a long answer. Now someone asks the second question and he goes into another monologue... gives another lecture.

I'm really sweating, I've got to figure out somehow to get him to stop. At one point he goes down for a glass of water, in the middle of his monologue, so I jump in, put my arm around him, and say "Dr. Deming thank you, thank you for this wonderful talk". He looks up and he yells out... "It's over? You mean it's over?" And I say, "Yeah. It's over." So sometimes we have to be told it's over.

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Death by Zeitgeist

Popular at MIT: You Vote, They Gloat

By Devdoot Majumdar

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Eighty percent of the people I meet are simply not worth my time. And while it'd be fun to list what's wrong with the various types of people I meet in my daily life, today I have a special task.

I've always been poised to make fun of unsuspecting folks — blind daters, Ring-Comm, freshmen, fratboys — the list is endless. Last week, I discovered a new social experiment: the popularity contest.

I've always admired those lustrously inauthentic qualities that adorned those that were popular in high school. Might as well pick out



DEVDOOT MAJUMDAR

Jonathan S. Varsanik '04

Always been popular?

"Yeah, I was popular in high school, but not in the popular crowd. I wasn't a football player..."

MIT changed you how?

"I've become a lot more self-confident. I was a lot more shy when I got here."

Smoothness (1-10): "5"

My take: Couldn't detect any jerk within this guy. Maybe being a Logarhythm and an ATO brother has a yin-yang effect.

the popular folks in our cozy little undergrad community and let the campus vote on them.

What student government has done subtly for centuries, I will do blatantly for once. There are popular people. They usually have lesions in the substance department, but they are cute in their own special way. And while they almost certainly fall into the 80 percent of people that aren't worth my time, I'm looking to rank them, not to enjoy their company.

So, presented for you are nine of the more popular kids at MIT. I sent out a mass e-mail asking for nominations and the folks below received the most nominations. Several declined the opportunity to be featured here



PETER R. RUSSO

Cameron M. Bass '04

Heard about some foursomes?

"There's a few stories. One time it was me and three girls. And in England it was two girls — the British are so fun."

Worst assumption about you?

"The fact that I'll remember someone's name just because I slept with them."

Smoothness (1-10): "2"

My take: Ribald, self-absorbed, and considerably uglier than he thinks. Even so, he came up with the best answers of the group, and has something of a prevailing reputation.

and so they missed out.

Your job is to vote for one of the following ten people at <http://the-tech.mit.edu/popularity/>. In exchange, they will receive a t-shirt indicating that they are the most popular person at MIT.

Clearly, this is a waste of space. But I figured *The Tech* could use something other than another Israel-Palestine article. And on a very sad note, I ended up liking some of these people. Apparently, sleaziness doesn't go hand in hand with popularity.

So, I humbly ask you to evaluate the popularity of the following nine people:



BRIAN HEMOND

Francesca E. Guidi '04

Worst assumption about you?

"The weirdest thing is that some people thought I was snobby, but that always kind of bugs me."

What's envied about you?

"A lot of people envy my tan, but seriously, I'm always on top of my stuff."

Smoothness (1-10): "7"

My take: Very proud that she gets out and has little work, though far more sincere than one might think.



LING WONG

Ling Wong '04

Which of your attributes work against you?

"I'm very outgoing and friendly. If a person is very shy, they're a little scared, but you feel it out."

Worst assumption made about you?

"I guess sometimes they think it's okay to be more rude because I come off as a strong person."

Smoothness (1-10): "8"

My take: Ling is the prize girlfriend of my favorite half-Asian, Colin Welton-Wu G. Aside from that, one does indeed get used to her charm in time.



BRIAN HEMOND

Kimberly G. Chao '04

Most irritating assumption?

"Do people really pre-judge me? I don't think they think I'm stupid, and I don't think they think I'm full of myself."

How'd you get popular?

"By being schizo and trying a bunch of things at MIT. You can meet a lot of people but you have to be well-remembered"

Smoothness (1-10): "8.5"

My take: Well, Kim is known around campus for many things. To some, she is a sister, to others she is "letsdanz." Let's just hope she gets over "dancing on tables at parties."



YI XIIE

Christopher D. Vu '04

Always been popular?

"I was popular in high school too... college has been exponential though, because I didn't sing 'till I got to MIT. No one in high school knew I could sing, including myself."

Most irritating assumption?

"Perhaps the most frustrating thing that happens is when I'm coerced into singing, and then... there is no desire left in them to talk to me."

Smoothness (1-10): "7"

My take: Surprisingly not saccharine, but clearly, the singing is big with him.



ANDREW BROOKS

Andrew (Zoz) Brooks G

Envied about you?

"My fashion sense. T-shirts and army pants never go out of style."

Popular before MIT?

"Not one bit. I thought that most of us came to MIT because we were unpopular."

Tell people you're from MIT?

"Oh yeah. It makes them stop talking to me quicker."

Smoothness (1-10): "1"

My take: He's my token EC candidate. The mohawk only hides his inner sweetness.



BRIAN HEMOND

Tyler S. Ellis '05

Envied about you?

"[Minute long pause] I guess I take pride in my appearance. I shower every day."

Worst assumptions made about you?

"Sometimes at 77 Mass. Ave., people come up to me and ask me, 'So, what are you here promoting?'"

Popular in high school?

"High school was weird. I got the chance to reinvent myself in college."

Smoothness (1-10): "8.5"

My take: If MIT was filled with Tylers, we might just live up to the reputation in "The Recruit." He'd make a good sperm donor.



PETER R. RUSSO

Temitope O. Sonuyi '05

Envied about you?

"I don't think people picked me on the envy part. It's not like I get chicks, I'm not rich, and I don't play sports. I'm course VI with the other third of the school."

What do people know you for?

"I did a lot of dumb shit my freshman year."

Tell people you go to MIT in public?

"Oh yeah."

Smoothness (1-10): "2.5"

My take: If anything, I wish this kid was more arrogant. He's definitely my pick, and he was perhaps the only one worth my time.

Positive Sinking Big Racks

By Akshay Patil

FEATURES EDITOR

Hey man, I've been meaning to write you for a while. Here is an idea for a column, since you are always looking for a new one: Orange fences and other MIT beauty highlights... you should write about how MIT always looks like shit. Peace,

— Brett

Well now, let's be honest... while the majority of MIT's campus wouldn't do so well on *hotornot.com* or a reality television show, there are *bits* and pieces that really are rather nice. Killian court looks pretty, on occasion, when it's not dead. This usually occurs around Campus Preview Weekend (when there are pre-frosh on campus) or during the summer (when most people aren't on campus).

It may just be you're experiencing the light-in-the-fridge phenomenon of the Warner Brothers frog only singing when no one else is around. Maybe you should try opening the fridge really quickly and you might get a glimpse of a good lookin' campus... if you know what I mean (which would be good, because I don't).

Of course there *are* parts of campus that stay nice year round. I still remember a story a friend once told me about how, when he joined I/S, they showed him Athena. You know, a room full of computers which host a large part of the Athena file system, but not really all of it, since they worry about redundancy and stuff, but a big enough chunk that you can still say, "I saw Athena" and still feel like you're not lying.

Anyways, he told me "it was hot." Now, he may have been referring to the temperature of the room, but I like to think he was alluding to the fact that rooms with big racks of computers really turn him on. You know, big... racks of computers. It's a course six wet dream. At least, it's my wet dream... I mean, it's not my only wet dream... I have other ones too you know, which don't involve big computer racks... alright, moving on.

You should investigate that huge bubble thingy in building 8. Who made it? Why? How? Why's it always look non-functioning? What is its function? Et cetera. Just a suggestion.

— not ass

You mean that big thingy in building 6? Outside of 6-120? I have no idea what that is. As far as I can tell it just makes bubbles. I don't think it's really supposed to do anything besides that, so I'm guessing it's usually in working order. Trust MIT to build a huge contraption to mimic a four year old with soapy water. There's probably some sort of amazing complexity arising from the underlying simplicity of the boundary interactions of molecules on a sub-nuclear level which offers insight into the grand problem of "where does my sock go when I do my laundry?" which has resulted in three Nobel prizes and a partial proof to the Goldbach Conjecture.

So as you can tell, I have utterly failed to investigate, research, or do anything of that ilk. I mean ilk. I did Google search it, if that counts for anything... so if there's a proper Web site about the bubble thingy in building six it must be under the search engine radar. Or it could have some sort of anti-radar coating like those stealth-bombers. That'd be kind of cool. Wouldn't do much good for your page rank though...

I'm sure there's a little placard or something like that next to it which explains everything in due process, but I'll be damned if I bother to actually read it or something. Seriously, what do they expect from us? We have more important things to do... like, uhm, writing stuff... about big racks of computers. Yeah.

Did you know that "gullible" isn't a real word? Seriously, you should look it up in the dictionary, then send e-mail to sinking@mit.edu about your defining experience.

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It May Not Be Right, But is it Even Wrong?

Why We Don't Read

By Dan Scolnic

FEATURES COLUMNIST

Our buildings and classes go by numbers. No one ever says the "Green Center for Physics." We never say "Computer Science," we just say "six." We're all used to it by now and we only realize how weird it is when people visit and say "Hey, your buildings and classes all go by numbers, that's pretty weird." For us, it's just one less thing we have to read in a place where we don't read anymore.

We go to bookstores and head straight to the textbook section. When we make the effort to read, we get bored right away because there is no formula to summarize everything. Some of us even attend English classes because we want to be forced to read. Our English brain dies — we feel it at first but soon we move on to what we consider much more important things.

But are the things we do that much more

important? Most of us would say yes. Many of us even say, possibly jokingly, that we came to MIT so we wouldn't have to write any more English papers. We feel like we can learn much more from a great textbook than a great novel and that's how things are at MIT.

Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Jeremy M. Wolfe once illustrated this point when he said, "the difference between Princeton and MIT is that at Princeton psychology is a science class and at MIT psychology is a humanities class." But as much as we love this difference, a lot of people say that too many MIT graduates work for Princeton graduates.

So one has to ask, if this is the case, is it because Princeton graduates read "A Tale of Two Cities" and we did not? The answer is obviously no. It is not that they read something that we did not but that they wanted to read something that we did not. So many books that we do not read deal with fiction,

about how the world does not work or could possibly work. And this turns us off from books.

In our freshman requirements, we take calculus, physics, biology and chemistry. We learn about how the world works and we learn from the experts, but we miss out on the different ways of thinking about all the different worlds. We just want to know how the world exactly works and disregard all the amazing ways it could work.

It is not just reading. No one watches television anymore. It just does not have the appeal it used to have. We never get lost in commercials or get addicted to our favorite spy show anymore. We have no clue what is going on in the outside world. Ben Affleck and J Lo broke up; I did not know that. I would have been the first one to know last year. I now have no clue what Bush is doing. I do not even know enough to understand people's jokes when they make fun of him.

We just get stuck in a world created by MIT. It is a world we choose to be in. We do not have the time or the energy to be in any other world. We get institutionalized. We get the best education one could get, but we miss out on something. We miss out on all the other worlds out there.

Now I can't ask for a revolution. Our buildings and classes go by numbers; that's the way things are. We aren't going to start reading just like that. We aren't going to start watching television just like that. But maybe, instead of becoming more institutionalized, we can take the knowledge we receive here and use it to explore new worlds. We can use our education not only to find new fields or ideas that have never been discovered but also to find our own place in the world.

Maybe someday, after learning in a place of numbered buildings and numbered classes without names, we can come out with our own names.

Confessions of a Music Snob

The Dirty Little Secret

By Andrew Lee

No reasonable guy should like Avril Lavigne's music, but I made a stupid remark a few months ago whose long-lasting effects still irritate me every so often. I was innocently partaking in some music-related discussion and I mindlessly blurted, "You know what song I like?... 'Skater Boy' by Avril Lavigne."

The guys around me at the time wouldn't let me get away with such an asinine comment. My weak attempts at damage control ("I'm just kidding!" "It was a joke!") only made it seem like I was trying to cover up an embarrassing secret that I'd blurted out in a lapse in judgment. So now I have an "obsession with Avril" and the respect I once had among my peers as a disagreeable grouch has plummeted to nearly the level of a ratty Yankees fan.

It would be great if I could defend myself, but I honestly don't entirely hate "Skater Boy." I know that the song is about a regretful ballerina who turned down a skateboarder who she later notices "rockin' up MTV." I am also completely aware that the song's title actually reads "Sk8ter Boi."

Despite how perversely commercial and brain-dead the song is, you have to admit that it's fun. I also have no trouble with watching fair Avril herself as she enthusiastically cavorts around in the music video. C'mon,

the guitar chords are catchy, and the chorus is addictive: "He was a skater boy!/She said 'See you later, boy!'" ... okay, I'm done now.

Naturally, I'd be ashamed to have this song in my library for all to gawk at over iTunes sharing. My library is something I am extremely proud of, not just for how stunningly elegant it is (every song has artist, album titles, rating, and album covers), but also for its high standard of content. Among all The Smashing Pumpkins, Blur, and Radiohead, you won't find a single song of mine that I don't like, and if you do, it will be exiled to the dark underside of my hard drive soon enough. My opinion of a specific song or album can be pieced together by noting the corresponding song ratings and play counts — no potentially hazardous social interaction with me is required.

I try to paint as accurate a portrait of my personality as possible through my music library. iTunes sharing lets me preserve whatever image my library presents while still letting me indulge in guilty pleasures like T.a.t.u., Christina Aguilera, Avril Lavigne, and maybe even some N'Sync.

Girls have this type of embarrassing stuff and I can peep in on it without leaving any evidence. But I'm not a complete weirdo, really. The notion that I dance to this kind of music in my room while passionately lip-syncing is completely laughable.

You might wonder why I don't just come out and admit that I love teeny-bopper pop and stuff my collection with it accordingly. For one thing: hell no. Though I can get easily sucked in by the unforgettable hooks, I could never forget how artistically vacant and irritatingly one-dimensional the music is.

Just because there is no way to completely resist a sugary pop song's mind-control doesn't mean I should embrace it. I believe that this music is meant to be listened to with your brain decidedly in the 'off' position. It's good enough to sing along to with your buddies while having a fun, shallow time, but please don't actually purchase the crappy records.

I don't feel like I've committed any sort of hypocrisy by enjoying "Sk8ter Boi." To avoid ridicule, I probably could have worded myself better from the beginning by instead saying "You know, 'Sk8ter Boi' doesn't entirely make me want to vomit" or "Blasting 'Sk8ter Boi' into my fortified compound would not be an effective means to force me to release the hostages."

Still, I think that my dignity is intact at the end of the day. Who cares that I find Avril Lavigne somewhat pleasing or that I once bought a Britney Spears album? No, I'm just kidding about the Britney thing, really. Hey... it was in eighth grade... I need to stop talking now.

Sex and the SafeRide

The Orgasm Next Door

By Alex Nelson

FEATURES COLUMNIST

When is an orgasm unwelcome? Well the answer to that is quite simple — when it's your neighbor's.

My neighbor's orgasm announces itself at 3 a.m. on Friday nights, or at least that's been the trend in recent weeks.

The first time was quite a shock. I'd gone to bed between midnight and 1 a.m. and was fast asleep by the time the clock struck three. At precisely 3:11 a.m., I was awoken by a strange noise. Coming out of a sleepy stupor, I turned towards the clock and pulled out an earplug to see what was the matter.

Soon I realized what noise had awoken me. It was none other than a moaning male from the room next door. It started as a long dampened moaning, but then the moans got louder and quicker until the man apparently climaxed in a deafening "UHHHHHHHHHHH."

I couldn't help but turn away, pulling the covers up over my head as a wave of nausea fell upon me. I prayed that it wouldn't be "her" turn next and that the moaning was over... at least for tonight. The night fell silent and I fell back asleep.

The next morning I woke up with a strange feeling. I felt disgusting. My emotions were a mix of both anger and disgust. My reaction seemed somewhat extreme, but the events of the previous night were more than disturbing. I thought to myself, "well at least it was a quick one." He couldn't have enjoyed it too much — the moaning only lasted perhaps five seconds. But what does it matter? I still had to listen to those five seconds of pleasure for him and pain for my ears!

The following weekend my boyfriend came to visit. I was on the offensive — a counterattack was in order. I knew that we could outdo any five-second revelry.

One week later. Friday night. 3 a.m. once again. I came home after a night of partying in an attempt to forget the 2.005 test from

the previous week.

I was feeling pretty good. I climbed into bed all tingly, knowing that I would fall asleep the moment my head hit the pillow. Enjoying a stupor of a different kind, I heard a familiar sound. Life was all good, and even a dirty show broadcasted from the room next-door via a heat vent wouldn't get me down. I thought it would be damn funny!

First I recognized a female's heavy breathing/panting. I wanted to laugh aloud. The breaths were so short and so deep that it could have easily been mistaken for hyperventilation. Every once in a while she threw in an "Oh my God, oh my God." But there appeared to be no real climax in this case. It was just a long drawn-out roller coaster ride of gasping for air and praying to God that he would find her clitoris. I don't think he ever did.

After a few moments of silence, it was of course "his" turn. Upon hearing the first moan, I cringed recalling the male moaner from two weeks ago. However, this moan was of a different sort. Now I am convinced that this poor new guy really has very little sexual experience, for he mimicked "her" sounds by saying "Oh my God" in between long, deep sighs. What kind of guy says "Oh my God"? I can't even imagine. Maybe he's from Harvard?

And what happened next? Not a damn thing. Either I fell asleep from boredom or he didn't fully climax either.

One thing is certain: The orgasm next door definitely changed my perspective on things. Sex, which is meant to be shared with one other person, may unintentionally or intentionally be shared with many more. Loud sex does not allow for private sex. Although loud sex may be really good sex, it destroys the intimacy of the act when others are able to follow exactly what is going on between you and your lover. So from now on, when I feel the urge to scream out in ecstasy, I will instead do as Vicky does in "American Pie" and smother my face with the nearest pillow.

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JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

A protestor makes his opinion against gay marriage heard through a megaphone amidst a crowd of like-minded protesters outside the statehouse.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Gay Marriage Demonstrators Gather Outside Statehouse



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Picket signs displaying mixed messages obscure the gold dome of the statehouse.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Bob Baril of Dorchester, MA, smiles as news spreads of the preliminary passage of the Travaglini-Finneran amendment to ban gay marriages but to require civil unions with equal privileges.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Local and national media trucks line both sides of Beacon Street outside the statehouse. Attention has turned to Massachusetts after same sex marriages have been halted in California and New York.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police monitor the demonstrations for and against gay marriage outside the statehouse.

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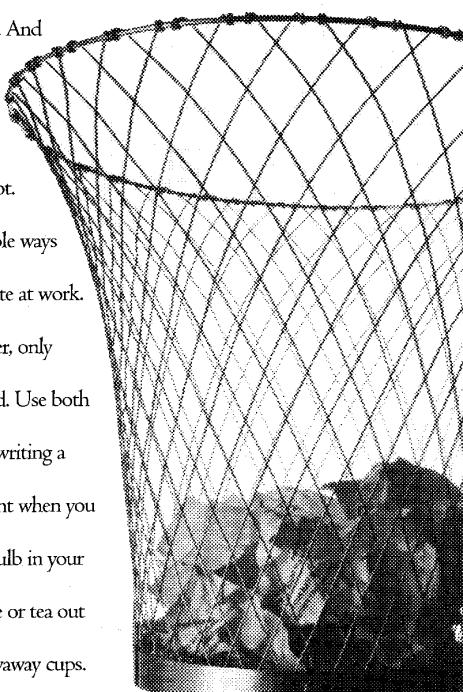
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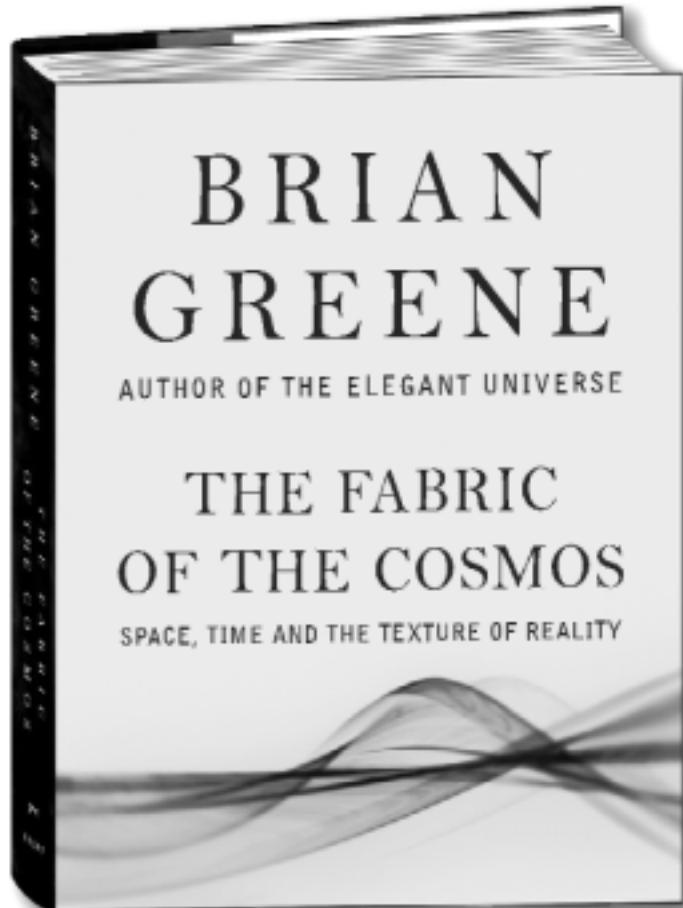
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—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

Class of 2006 Fared Well as Early Sophs

Standing, from Page 1

For MIT, option is about advising

Although many students accept sophomore standing with the sole intention of taking more classes, Norman said, “we market sophomore standing for one reason only: that is, you can declare a major and have an advisor in that major.”

Some first-year students chose to remain freshmen. Hana L. Adaniya ’07 did not accept sophomore standing, saying, “I didn’t have a department I really wanted to major in.”

For many, though, this is only incidental. Joey Y. Zhou ’07 said he “came here with a good intention to do Course VI,” and declared sophomore standing primarily because he “wanted to take more classes.”

Freshman advisor and professor of Earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences J. Brian Evans recommends that his eligible advisees accept sophomore standing if either they want to have an advisor in their own department or if there is “some impediment to taking classes they want to take caused by a being a freshman.”

This might include higher preference for a class based on being a student in the department or needing a few more units to take an additional class.

2006 early sophomores fare well

Because many students use sophomore standing to avoid the credit limit, these early sophomores might have been expected to suffer academically. For the Class of 2006, however, this was not the case.

Norman said last spring’s early sophomores took an average of 58.8 units, with 54 and 60 units predominating. While this average is about six units more than that of true sophomores, only one of last year’s early sophomores was classified as having academic difficulty.

Though last year’s early sophomores declared their majors a semester earlier than usual, there was no increase in the percentage who changed their majors.

Typically, 7 percent of students change their major between the time of declaration and the end of the fall semester of their second year. For members of the Class of 2006 who accepted sophomore standing, only 5.8 percent had changed their major by the end of last term.

Norman said students accepting sophomore standing are generally well prepared to choose a major; “they are making their decision based on comparable information, just a little earlier.”

Exploratory subjects declared

Unlike previous years, members of the Class of 2007 who accepted sophomore standing were eligible to declare an exploratory subject. An exploratory subject, designated by the add date, allows a student to decide by registration day of the following term whether to keep the grade in that class or change the class to listener status.

Of the 313 students who declared exploratory subjects this term, 287 were members of the Class of 2006 and 26 were members of the Class of 2007, said assistant registrar Iria J. Romano.

Abbott declared an exploratory subject, while Walker and Zhou did not. Zhou said the exploratory subject was not helpful since he is only taking classes that are necessary for his major or for general institute requirements.

Problems with more sophomores

With many more freshmen declaring sophomore standing, some problems have arisen.

Problems such as designating class year separately from the registrar’s classification for Undergraduate Association elections and class mailing lists have been corrected since last year, “really on the fly,” said Norman.

In addition, some students and advisors have been ill-prepared for the changes. Sophomore advisors, on the other hand, do not receive the same training and attention that freshmen advisors do, and may not be aware of all the changes. Norman said that this could be a problem, though she works only with first year advisors.

Some students have been confused about the ramifications of sophomore standing and exploratory subjects. Norman said that several of last year’s early sophomores have asked to take an exploratory subject this term, and one student from the Class of 2006 wanted to have last year’s sophomore standing rescinded in order to take an exploratory subject. In both cases, the requests were denied in accordance with policy.



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April 2, 2004

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(proposals submitted for this deadline cannot support projects with a start date before May 13, 2004)

Currently registered MIT students, MIT faculty and MIT staff are eligible to apply
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For more detailed information, read the Grants Guidelines on the web at:
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantguide.html>

You may also submit your application from the web, at:
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The Council for the Arts at MIT is a volunteer group of alumni and friends established to support the visual, literary, and performing arts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since its founding in 1972 by MIT President Jerome B. Wiesner, the Council for the Arts has worked "to foster the arts at MIT...[and]... to act as a catalyst for the development of a broadly based, highly participatory program in the arts." Appointed by the President of MIT to three-year terms, Council members serve as advocates and advisors to MIT's Associate Provost for the Arts.

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Please send nominating letters by Friday March 19, 2004 to:
Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205
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Deadline Extended

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 Fernando Vigil HBS



Vote online or pick up a paper ballot at any Coop store. Voting deadline is April 2nd, 2004.

MIT Intends to Offer More Financial Aid

Tuition, from Page 1

According to the press release, MIT undergraduates who qualify for financial aid will receive a financial aid package from MIT that averages \$23,000. Last year, the average financial aid package for aid-eligible students was \$19,600.

Additional fees factored into aid

In recent years, MIT has added new fees to the overall cost, including the student life fee of \$200 per student and mandatory dining plans in some dormitories.

The dining plans, already required for all residents at Simmons Hall and all residents in the Class of 2007 and beyond at Next House and Baker House, will go into effect at McCormick for freshmen next year. The plans require that students pay \$200 per semester in return for a 50 percent discount on food purchased at the dormitory's dining hall.

Harvard also boosts financial aid
 MIT's increase in financial aid

funding comes on the heels of a recent announcement by Harvard University guaranteeing that parents who make less than \$40,000 a year will not need to pay for their children's tuition. Families in the income range of \$40,000 to \$60,000 will see their contribution requirement decrease. Currently, parents who earn less than \$40,000 are expected to pay \$2,300.

As a prelude to the policy change, Harvard "held focus groups at Harvard with students with family incomes under \$50,000," said Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers at the 86th Annual Meeting of the American Council on Education. "We learned that these students often work to make up the parental contribution because they do not want to subject their parents to additional financial stress," he said.

While Harvard's new initiative is only a \$2 million increase to the school's financial aid budget, the total budget for the school is almost \$80 million, 20 percent larger than MIT's.



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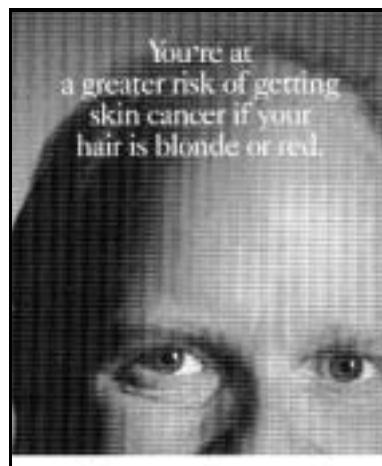
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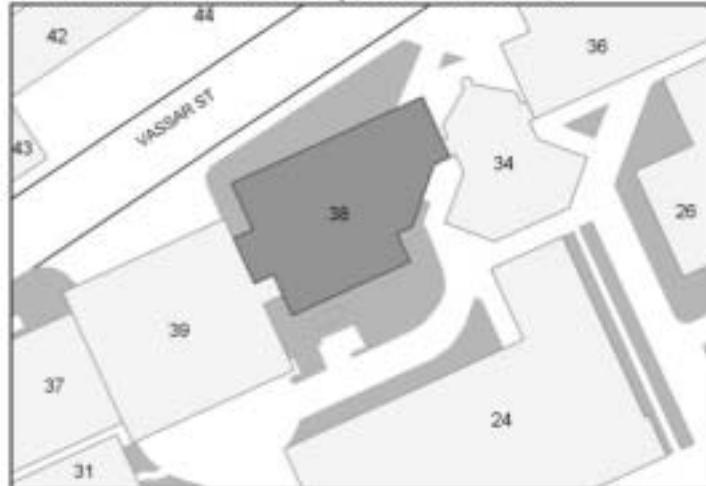
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MIT Department of
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CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Tank installation to affect pedestrian access



To accommodate the installation of a new nitrogen tank, pine trees on the south side of Building 38 are scheduled to be removed during the week of March 8-12. Pedestrian traffic to Building 34 via the southwest entrance will be restricted for the duration of the tank installation, which will take approximately six weeks. Although relocation of the trees to another area of campus was investigated, it is not feasible at this time because of the extreme size of the trees.

This information provided by the Department of Facilities.
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Renovations Will Not Affect EC Culture

EC, from Page 1

such as the Research Science Institute and Interphase, will not be housed there this year, she said. "Priority will be for MIT East Campus students who want to live in East Campus."

There are usually 120 to 140 students from the east parallel who enter the housing lottery.

Renovations part of larger plan

While many renovations will be completed around campus, "EC will have the most extensive renovations this summer," Nilsson said. "They have the most need."

Part of the difficulty of a full renewal comes from the large number of students who would not have housing if the building were drastically renovated. "We cannot displace 400 students," she said. "There would have to be another building built on this campus" before "we can renovate."

The costs for the renovations have not yet been calculated, Nilsson said. "We're really in the beginning planning stages," she said.



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH
Ames Street and the east parallel of East Campus as seen on Thursday night. The east parallel will be renovated over the summer.



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Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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Volleyball Has Ten-Win Season After the Endicott Tournament

Volleyball, from Page 20

their first upset of the tournament. The win was also the team's tenth win of the season, marking the first ten win season for the program since 1993.

The next match saw MIT take on D'Youville College (ranked sixth in NECVA). The Engineers put up a strong fight and managed to steal a game from the strong D'Youville squad behind the defensive prowess of Libero (the specialized defensive player) Hao Hu '04, who led the team with 16

defensive digs. In the end, the Engineers could not counter the strong offense of the opposition and fell 1-3.

On day two of the tournament, the Engineers played one of their best matches of the season when they took on #15 nationally ranked Ramapo College. A strong team performance, especially on defense, confounded the Ramapo hitters and created many scoring opportunities which the Engineers took full advantage of. After winning the first two games 30-25, 30-27, MIT found themselves down 24-26 in

the third game. The team never gave up and came back to close out the game 30-28 and the match 3-0. Bob Aspell '06 hit .600 for the match and outside hitters Javad Golji '06 and Michelangelo A. Raimondi '06 added six and five kills, respectively.

The final match of the tournament against conference rival Endicott College saw an extremely tired MIT squad fight hard but come up short losing 0-3. All the games were close in part because of the setting of Jordan X. Wan '06, who dished out 46 assists in the effort, and McAndrew who put down 23 kills from everywhere on the court.

Overall, the Engineers finished in the silver bracket of the tournament and earned much respect for the program with their gutsy performances over the weekend. McAndrew earned All-Tournament honors for his solid play throughout the tournament.

The weekend results put MIT at 11-11 overall for the season and 8-7 in conference. Their final match of the season will be against Harvard University in MIT's du Pont Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m.



Jordan X. Wan '06 sets the ball during a match against the Mount Ida College Mustangs last Wednesday night in DuPont. The Engineers defeated Mount Ida College 3-0.

Cheerleading Places 2nd

By Hillary Stanton
TEAM MEMBER

After a quick cheer for luck, the MIT cheerleaders took the mat at the Mounties Invitational Cheerleading Competition in Woonsocket, Rhode Island on Saturday, taking second place with the routine they had been working on for months.

The MIT cheerleading squad, though not a varsity sport, existed at MIT in 1963 and was recently revived in 1998. Last fall however, captains Laura E. Babcock '04, Grace A. Chou '05, and Susanna Liu '05 decided to form a separate competition squad. In addition to a game squad that cheers for the football and basketball teams at home games, there is now a competition squad that competes in cheerleading competitions held in the New England region. The new competition squad had tryouts in the fall and formed a team of 22 members.

Unlike squads from many other colleges, MIT Cheerleading faces many barriers in preparing for competition. As club sport, they have limited space for practicing their routine and stunts. They also do not have a coach or padded mats for safety at their convenience, thus

restricting higher level stunting during certain practices. While other colleges only accept people with cheerleading experience, MIT accepts individuals with absolutely no experience and trains them from the beginning.

What's most impressive is that while most cheerleading squads practice 12 hours a week, the MIT squad is only able to meet for four hours each week.

"The MIT Competition squad has a lot of potential, and given the limited time, course load, and level of experience we have, I think we achieved an amazing level of skill," said co-captain Liu.

"To be able to compete with these other squads is incredible."

Four other colleges attended the competition on Saturday, including UMass Dartmouth (a college nationally renowned for its cheerleading program), Worcester State College, Westfield State College, and Endicott College. After some technical problems with their music, the MIT cheerleaders still managed to place second in the Co-ed division. "I am really quite proud of our squad. Just a couple years ago it was unthinkable that MIT would even attempt a cheerleading competition," said co-captain Chou. The squad will compete again on April 3 in Woburn, Massachusetts.

Steroids, from Page 20

we get.

The problem that many of us can fix about steroids is simply not talking about them. I simply don't see the value in shoving a bunch of cameras and microphones up to Bonds' face and asking him questions about taking steroids that we know he will not answer. What do you expect past a "no comment"?

Also, I hate all the guesswork that goes on as to who has done steroids and who has not. If there was concrete evidence on who has tested positive and who has not, then great. We can go on criticizing the drug users all we want. But anything past proof makes commenting on the issue rather moot.

We know that Ken Caminiti has admitted to doing it, and we know that Jose Canseco has admitted to doing it. Those statements I'm going to assume are facts. However, anything they said outside of their

California Dreamin' For Women's Frisbee

Ultimate, from Page 20

of the game was sMITe's new junk defense, which shook up the UCLA offense enough for a multitude of turnovers. Angela Tong '05 had a spectacular game with a layout block and three goals caught. Rubritz caught a layout goal, and Genevieve G. Ricart '06 threw two more, helping sMITe win the game 11-8.

sMITe was pitted against UBC for the final round of pool play. Playing great defense, Holly E. Owens '07 shut down every cut made by her opposing players, and Olivia R. Cheo '04 had two blocks. Outstanding offensive continuation play was shown by April Rasala G and Alison M. Cohen G, who connected for a total of five goals. The game ended with a 12-9 victory for sMITe, putting the team into the quarterfinals of the elimination bracket.

Midst the cool fog of a California Sunday morning, sMITe faced UC Santa Cruz in the quarterfinal round. When UC Santa Cruz came out with a zone defense, Shuang You '05 and Julia V. M. Cline G stood out with their patience and consistency.

tently solid throws as handlers, sMITe took the game 14-9, aided by a remarkable show of defense from Yelena Gorlin '06 and Dobson, who combined for eight blocks.

The semifinal round against UC San Diego proved to be sMITe's toughest match. The match started with UC San Diego scoring the first two goals. In the next point, Taylor F. Schildgen G had a ridiculous grab over one of UC San Diego's top players. She then threw to Sun, who connected with Meryl R. del Rosario '05 in the end zone. The teams traded points until UC San Diego took the first half with a score of 8-6. sMITe came out strong in the second half with two blocks by Darlene E. Ferranti '06 and three more by Cohen, helping the team pull ahead to an 11-10 score. However, UC San Diego came back strong and won the game 14-11. UC San Diego went on to lose to Stanford (the 2003 national champions) 13-15 in the finals.

Dusting off their cleats and stepping onto the playing field as a force to be reckoned with, sMITe took third place overall, despite competing against teams who have the ability to practice outdoors year-round.



Kathy Dobson G lays out for a disc in the end zone while April Rasala G looks on during the Stanford Invitational tournament last weekend. MIT won the game against UCLA during pool play, 11-8.

Lax Regulations Spurn Wild Accusations

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we get.

own admittance of guilt is hearsay. What's the point in finger pointing when we don't have any clue where to point our fingers? "So we think somebody may have done something with some company that may potentially have gotten somebody else some steroids." That's basically what I read in the papers about steroids. Nothing seems to be concrete.

The worst remark I heard over the past week on the issue of steroids was the comment made by Andy Van Slyke on Julio Franco.

Forty-five-year-old Julio Franco still looks like he has the body of a bull. His muscles are bulging, and he is able to carry a fairly heavy bat without much decline in performance. However, putting Julio's age and his strength together does not seem to make a sensible match, at least not to Van Slyke. So, he said that Franco must be taking steroids or something.

Now, where is there a shred of

evidence? It's almost as though we see a young child who is very bright, but we ignore his smarts and merely blame him for cheating in some way. Perhaps he is simply caught in the steroids frenzy and thinks that it is acceptable to point fingers at Julio Franco, but if Julio is innocent, isn't Van Slyke accusing an innocent man of a bad crime? Why do we hesitate to call people murderers but are extremely vigilant about calling them steroid users? I feel Van Slyke owes Franco a big apology.

I just think that everyone should stop guessing. We should instead focus on making Major League Baseball heavily test steroid usage from now on. Since there is a way to guarantee the integrity of baseball, why do we shy away from it? Maybe we don't want to uncover the truth. Maybe it can cost a lot of money. I just want to know the truth. But at least for now, I won't write on steroids.

Phi Cup Results

Checking:

Delta Tau Delta def. IM Allstars 3-1

Non-checking:

Aero-Astro Scuds def. Burton United 11-3



SPORTS

sMITe Advances to Semis; Take Third At Stanford Invitational

By Lori Eich
TEAM MEMBER

Last weekend, the women's ultimate Frisbee team (sMITe) took third place at the Stanford Invitational tournament. The team swept pool play and defeated UC Santa Cruz in the quarterfinals but was defeated by UC San



Diego, the national champions of 2002, in the semifinals.

sMITe, having practiced outdoors only twice prior to the tournament, started the weekend a little rusty but still edged out a win over UC Davis. Pool play began with UC Davis quickly scoring the first point of the game. sMITe answered with a stellar 50-yard huck from Nancy Y. Sun '04 to Kathy L. Dobson G in

the end zone. Kathleen M. Rubritz '04 and Lori A. Eich G, combined for five blocks and showed amazing vertical defensive play. The teams traded points throughout the match, but sMITe ended up on top with a final score of 12-11.

Game Two of pool play matched sMITe against UCLA. The highlight

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ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH
Julia V. Cline G throws a disc past a UC Davis defender during MIT's first game at the Stanford Invitational tournament. MIT won the game 12-11.



ROSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH
Nancy Y. Sun '04 avoids a foot block and puts a throw past her UBC defender in the last game of pool play. MIT won the game 12-9, allowing them to continue to the quarterfinals of the Stanford Invitational tournament.

I Hate Steroids

By Yong-yi Zhu
SPORTS COLUMNIST

I love writing about sports. Not only does it give me an excuse to go on *ESPN.com* and surf the Web, but it also allows me, for a couple of hours, to completely leave the MIT world behind as my mind wanders and ponders about baseball, football, and everything else sports related. However, there are certain bounds that I hope to never cross in my writing. For me, that bound includes writing about steroids.

I don't write about steroids. In fact, I hate steroids. I don't know how other writers feel about it, but the fact of the matter is anything that can hurt baseball this much is certain to be a terrible thing. I love baseball; therefore, I must hate steroids. It's a relationship as contrasting as the Yankees and the Red Sox, the Lakers and the Kings, or Itchy and Scratchy. If only baseball could kill steroids as Itchy kills Scratchy on a regular basis.

Steroid usage is an enormous problem, but it is

not a problem that can be solved until baseball begins to test all of its players on a regular basis. I don't understand what the hesitation is in not testing the players, especially since the drug is bad for the players' health and bad for their reputations. Just think about the amount of speculation that surrounds all of Barry Bonds' records and imagine what people would say if they tested and found out that he had taken steroids. It would be better for the sport if the testing happened from now on, and everyone knew that all the games are clean. The same system should also go for corking bats. I don't think that we should question the records that Bonds has set. After all, whether he took drugs or not is not provable, and therefore, any speculation on the issue would be just that, speculation. Who knows if anyone else has taken it in the past? If baseball decided not to ask in the past, then we shouldn't question the results that

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Endicott Invitational Taxes MIT Volleyball

By Paul Dill
TEAM COACH

The varsity men's volleyball team closed out a strong weekend, finishing sixth in the 12 team Endicott College Invitational Tournament. The tournament is the largest collegiate men's volleyball tournament in the country and featured several nationally ranked teams.

In their first match, MIT faced



KABIR MUKADDAM—THE TECH
Kabir J. Mukaddam '05 slams the ball past his opponent Wednesday night in DuPont during a match against the Mount Ida Mustangs. The Engineers defeated the Mustangs, winning all three games.

MIT Men's Track Stars Compete in NCAA Finals

By Eric Khatchadourian
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Varsity Indoor Track Team will send two athletes to compete at the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championship this weekend at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater.

All-American Brian C. Anderson '04, who finished third in the nation last year in the 800 meter run, is set to race both the 800 and the 1500 this year. He is seeded third in both events. Anderson has had an outstanding indoor season so far, running as fast as 1:52.88 in the 800 and 4:10.11 in the mile, times which put him near the top of the all-time performance list in MIT's history.

All-American Uzoma A. Orji

'06 is poised to continue his dominance of the shot put, his main event, and he will also be competing in the weight throw at the national competition. Orji is seeded first in the nation in the shot put and sixth in the weight throw. Orji has also had an outstanding season as he continues to break his own school record in the shot put and is moving to the top in the weight throw, an event he only started competing in last year.

Together, Anderson and Orji have scored an impressive number of points for MIT during the season and will likely have a strong showing at nationals.

The rest of MIT's team is currently training for the upcoming outdoor season where they hope to defend their New England Division III title.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Mar. 10

9 a.m., MIT Intercollegiate Figure Skating Competition, Johnson Ice Rink
Noon, Varsity Women's Lacrosse vs. Plymouth State University, Jack Barry Field
2 p.m., Varsity Men's Tennis vs. Bowdoin, du Pont tennis courts / JB Carr Tennis Bubble
3 p.m., Varsity Men's Lacrosse vs. Tufts University, Jack Barry Field
4 p.m., Varsity Women's Gymnastics vs. Southern Connecticut State College, du Pont Gymnasium